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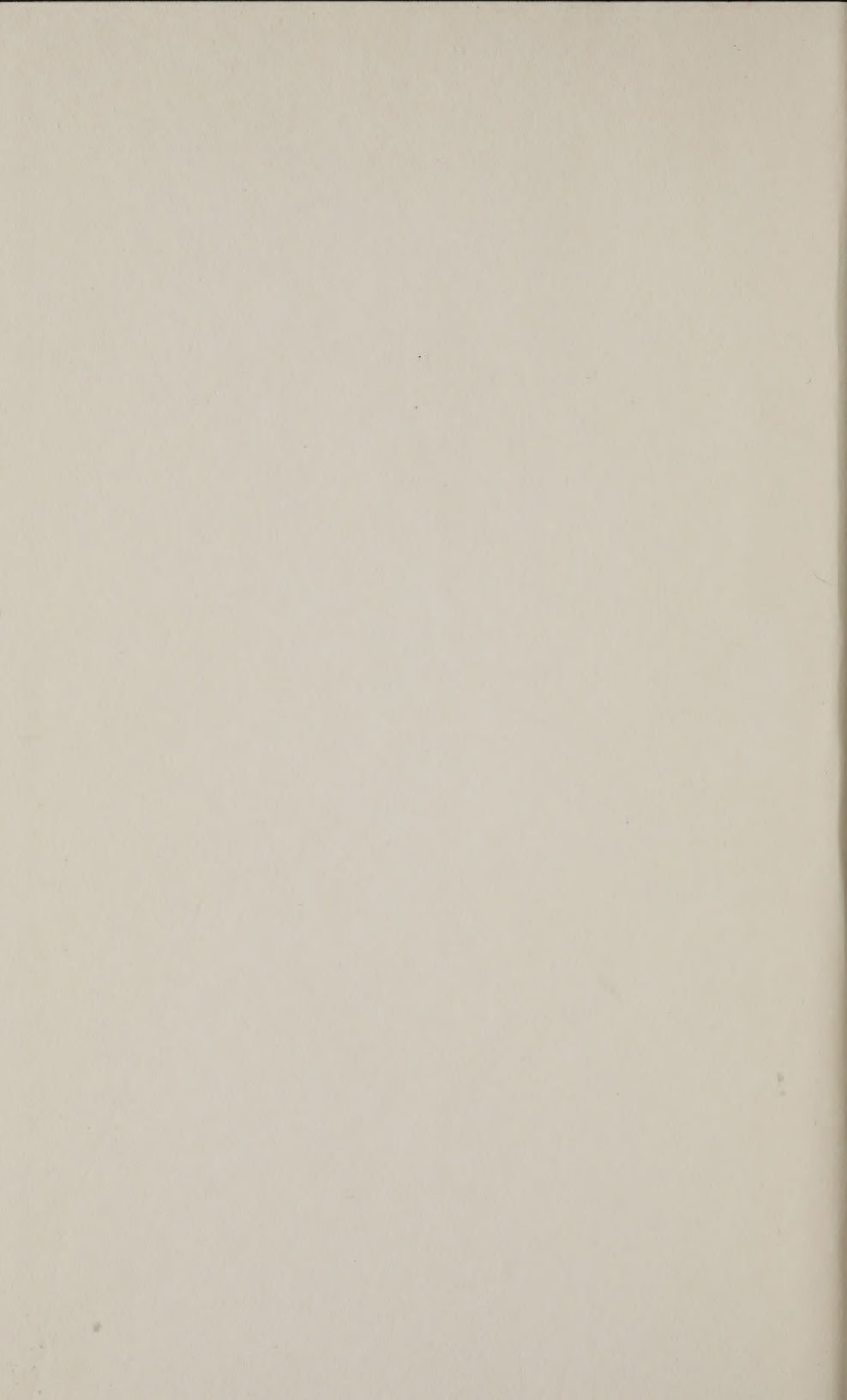
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*The History of Oxford College for Women*

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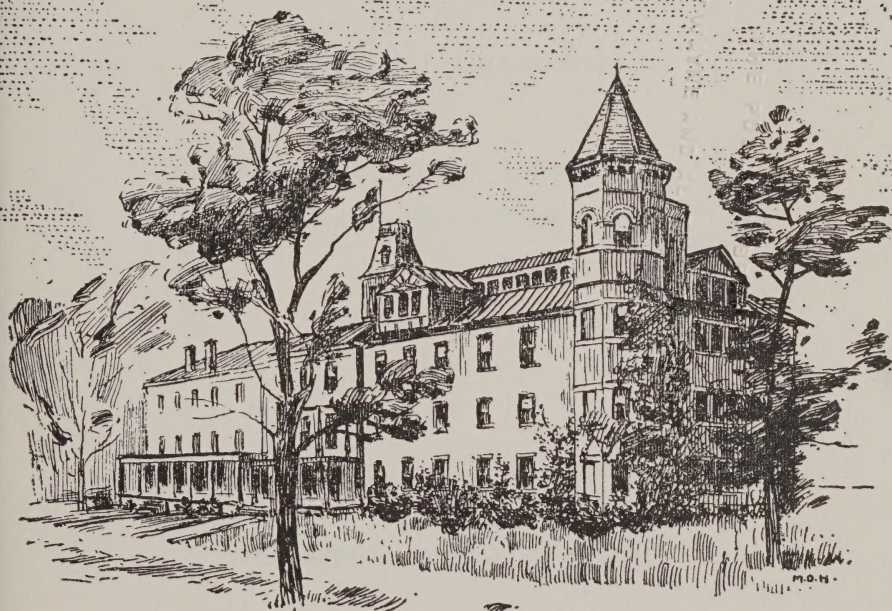
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as the second in a series of Miami University Books

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*The History*  
*of*  
*Oxford College for Women*

1830 - 1928



*by*  
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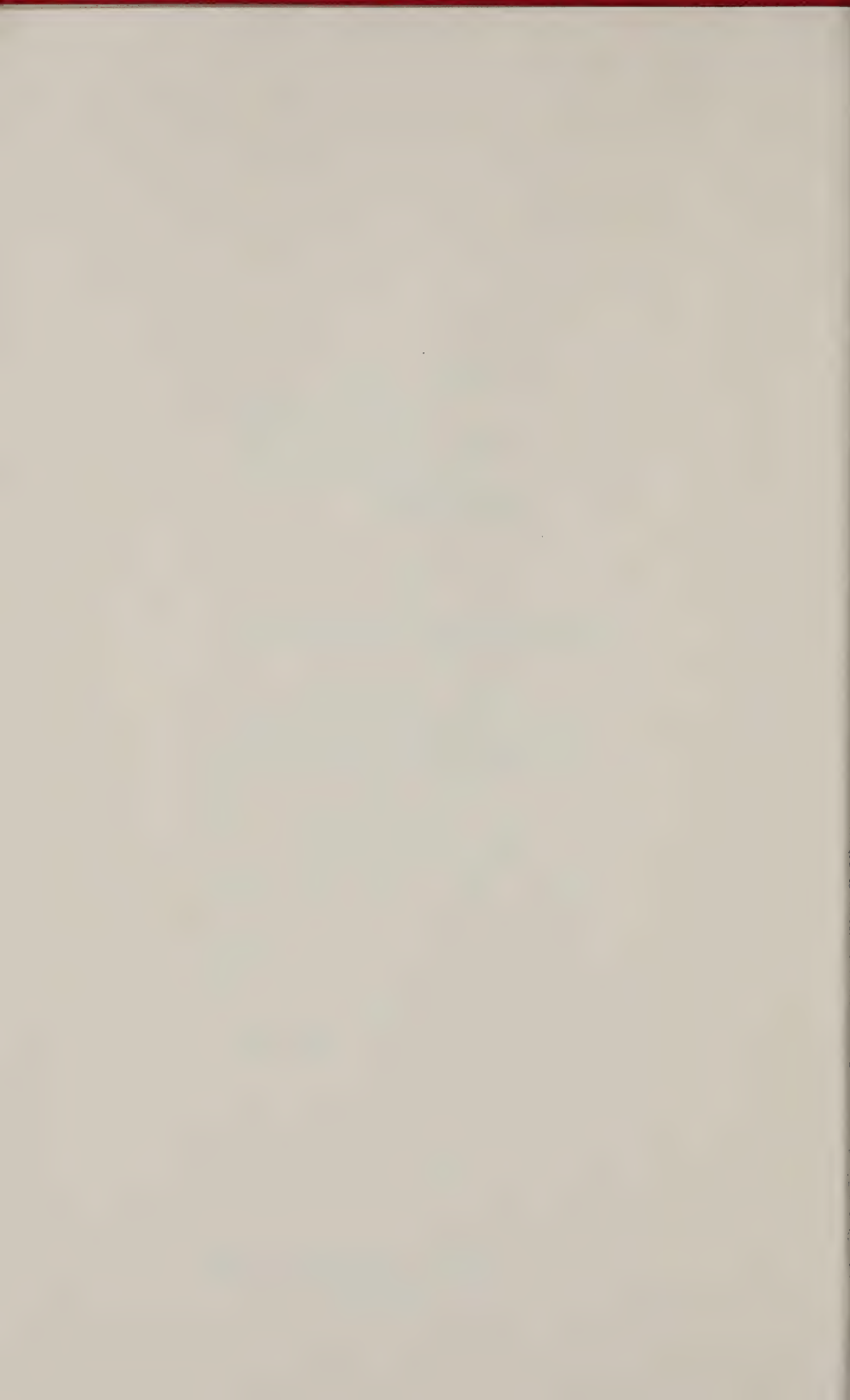
WHITAKER-MOHLER PRINTING COMPANY  
HAMILTON, OHIO



Miss Wm. Allen Dean -

THE OXFORD COLLEGE GIRLS

*"For in my sacred memory chest  
All Oxford girls are young and gay"*





## Foreword

For nearly a century Oxford College carried on its life in the quiet village of Oxford. Its doors first opened when the Ohio Valley still bore the marks of the passing frontier; its final graduating class stepped from those doors into the teeming twentieth century. So, a history of Oxford College is a story within a larger story of the development of American education and society.

As a pioneer women's academy, Oxford College marked out new paths in American education. It did this quietly, in a serene setting, with a rustle of taffeta on the stairs and shadows lengthening on the long veranda. But the story of Oxford College is both eventful and arduous. Any reader will be impressed by the struggles through which the College passed, the crises it survived, and the ardent spirit which it sustained, and which in turn sustained the College, for almost a hundred years.

This story, as Miss Flower has told it, is warmed with human interest. It rests upon a careful study of the written records, but to that search it adds the resources of personal memory and feeling. It supplements facts and figures with a variety of pictures of college life in times gone by. A college is essentially people, and this book calls the roll of many persons who in many ways added to the long stream of Oxford College traditions.

The distinction of Oxford, Ohio, like the older Oxford for which it was named, is that it has been not a college town but a town of colleges. For many years the life of Oxford College ran parallel with the life of Old Miami. Eventually the two traditions mingled, and Oxford College became a part of the broadening and deepening life of Miami University. But its beginnings, its development, and its long cycle of experience were its own. This book, recalling the past struggles and the lasting aspirations of Oxford College, will keep that story alive for generations to come.

— WALTER HAVIGHURST

## *By Way of Preface: Apology and Thanks*

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An Institution whose span of life covered ninety-eight years by 1928 was bound to have helped make history in its community; to have acquired traditions and tales; in a sense to have been unique.

To assemble in convenient form the pertinent facts, hidden away in diverse places and gradually passing into oblivion, of a pioneer college of the Middle West before it was entirely too late has been the aim of this compiler. Already too many of those who knew the traditions and tales of an earlier time have passed away, and it is now too late to unite all the links of the chain of the past.

In order to preserve what facts may still be found there has been liberal invasion into neighbors' preserves and equally liberal booty lifted — without the benefit of camouflage. Historical books, "Old Oxford Houses," "Old Miami," documents, records, Oxford College and Miami University publications, newspapers, letters, personal reminiscences and diaries have been carefully studied and gleaned.

A sense of deep indebtedness prompts an apology for omitting many specific acknowledgments. Thanks are due to many for invaluable help and cooperation. To Miss Elizabeth Hamilton and Miss Adelia W. Cone, who have given tirelessly and generously of their time and strength, profound and everlasting thanks are sincerely made.

O. F.

Oxford, Ohio, July, 1948

## *An Appreciation*

The alumnae of Oxford College are proud and happy that the story of our alma mater has been written. We have a deep and abiding loyalty for the institution which exists now in memory only. This loyalty has its roots in our conviction that Oxford College gave us much of great value. Its founding, in the era of Jacksonian democracy, was evidence of the growing power of woman's place in social and economic life. From the first, Oxford College had a definite sense of mission to lead the way for broadening and deepening the cultural life of women. We who knew it in its later years felt that we must, as college graduates, do our best to achieve something worth while.

We sang a college song which paid tribute to the high degree of training of our president, dean, and faculty. We were justly proud of that distinguished group. We lived in close association with our teachers. Our education was a continuous process in lecture hall, dining room, parlor, and library. It was an all-round development, with emphasis on thorough scholarship, and a larger goal of sending forth well-poised, resourceful women. The very simplicity of our living arrangements and equipment taught us adaptability. Dr. Sherzer, our president, told us that Oxford College graduates made successful career women because they had learned in college to make what they had serve many uses.

One of the outstanding qualities of Oxford College students has been their spirit of loyalty. This loyalty has been of sturdy quality surviving, as this book will show, many major and minor crises. This devotion withstood the closing of the college as a separate institution. In those days of transition from our old college to the new allegiance to Miami it was our rare good fortune to have our own Olive Flower on the staff of the University.

We had known Miss Flower in our college days as an able professor of science and later as our beloved dean. She had rare qualities of ability and character which fitted her for outstanding success in both fields of activity. Her broad scholarship and



teaching skill, combined with a rare charm of personality, made her a leader of young people. She loved girls of all types, whether they were gay, shy, studious, or boisterous. She believed in us so much that she made us want to meet her high and exacting standards, and her clear, incisive thinking cut through persiflage to the heart of any question under consideration.

After the active days of Oxford College were over, Miss Flower had a unique role in our new relationship with Miami. She, more than any other person, nurtured and guarded well the Oxford College spirit and traditions, and at the same time broadened our interest in and our knowledge of Miami's activities. Each year great numbers of the alumnae came back to Oxford. Here we saw Miss Flower living happily in the beautifully-restored Oxford College building and a part of the busy life of Miami. She carried on an ever-deepening interest in the lives and activities of Oxford College alumnae around the world. To see her was to recapture for a little while our youth, and we left her with a determination to try a little harder to fulfil her high hopes for us.

The publication of this book will give permanent record of our story. For the alumnae, it will be "Miss Flower's Book" and it will be an enduring symbol of her wonderful service in keeping alive a great tradition.

— Helen Elliott, Oxford College A.B. 1916.

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## I. THE EARLY, MIDDLE AND LATER YEARS

IN the little town of Oxford, Ohio, with Indians safely around the second corner, with white wide-board fences surrounding each residence to protect its shrubbery and flowers from wandering pets and domestic animals, with Miami University, now six years old, and sufficiently established to educate the boys in the family, the next step, naturally, was to provide for the girls as well. Since coeducation was not even dreamed of, there was need of a school for girls. This was a matter of deep concern to the Miami faculty, three of whom began to cast about for a suitable person to head it.

Hence it was under the patronage of the three, President Robert H. Bishop, Professor William McGuffey, and Professor John Witherspoon Scott, that the "learned, brilliant, forceful administrator," Bethania Crocker, opened a school for girls in 1830. This event was a piece of wonderfully good fortune for Oxford and the surrounding country, for "female seminaries" at that time were few and far between.



She was the eldest daughter of a once Congregational, then later Presbyterian, clergyman, the Reverend Peter Crocker, originally from Massachusetts, who had somehow come to Bath, Indiana.

Miss Crocker's school was in a small brick house of one room, located on Main Street just south of High Street. There seems to be no record of this school now, but it must have prospered for it continued under her guidance until 1834 when she married the Reverend George Bishop, son of Miami's president, and pastor of the Presbyterian church.

Again it was to New England that the patrons of the school looked for a successor to carry on the work and the Misses M. A. Smith and Clark took charge for the year 1834-1835. Then Miss Clark married the Reverend Ebenezer Bullard, a brother of Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher. Probably Miss Smith also found her affinity. From 1835 to 1840 the Misses Ann, Lucy, and Susan North from Connecticut conducted the school. Coming from New England, the Norths were probably Congregationalists, but they soon joined the First Presbyterian church in which Mr. Harry Lewis, Jane North's brother-in-law, was already an officer, having been one of the incorporators in 1833.

Ann seems to have come first and was the Principal. The records relate that Lucy and Susan lived in the home of their sister, Jane North Lewis (Mrs. Romeo Lewis) in what is now known as Lewis Place, the home of Miami's presidents.

The Norths had the first cottage system, for by now pupils came from a distance, several from Kentucky, presaging the part that state was to play in the

## EARLY YEARS

life of the later college. Others came from near-by towns. Six or eight girls from Franklin came in their own conveyances, for there was no train to Oxford. One had to go by canal boat to Cincinnati and Hamilton, and then by stage to Oxford. It was the aristocrats who could furnish their own conveyances, and "sharing the ride" was not then the fashion. Mrs. Ophia Smith records in her book "Old Oxford Houses" that "there were not more than twenty-five carriages in the whole township."

In 1915 when Mrs. Mary Ellen Schenck Denise was in her ninety-third year, she recalled that her teacher, Miss Ann L. North, and several others boarded in the home of Mr. Harry Lewis in 1838-'39; that the school attended chemistry lectures given by Professor John W. Scott of Miami in the laboratory in the University yard. She recalled also that the home of Mr. Romeo Lewis, brother of Harry Lewis, was the finest in the town.

The fact that girls came from a distance — and twenty-eight miles was a distance when it had to be compassed by horse power—emphasizes the idea that Oxford must have been regarded as an intellectual center even then.

That certain citizens took this school as a serious project and were desirous of elevating its status is proved by their action at this time in incorporating The Oxford Female Academy under the laws of Ohio. A copy of this legal document appears on page one of the Appendix. The fact that the school could be incorporated as "The Oxford Female Academy" indicated that it was not merely a Miss So and So's school

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

for girls; that its aim was to develop the mind rather than merely polish the manners, to give girls intellectual training that compared favorably with that given young men. It is reasonable to think that such an aim originated with Bethania Crocker, who was a scholar rather than a polisher.

Entrance was by examination. Emphasis was laid on mathematics and philosophy because it was thought that girls were not capable of mastering Greek. And yet Bethania Crocker knew Hebrew when she was sixteen years old. However, she was an exceptional young woman.

With the school on a legal basis, the Misses North could turn to their personal affairs. Miss Ann married Mr. G. Y. Roots, a merchant in Oxford, September 15, 1840, after he had joined the Presbyterian church September 5, 1840, and thus became an eligible suitor. Later he was a prosperous, civic-minded man of prominence in Cincinnati. Miss Lucy became the wife of the Reverend John M. Bishop November 10, 1846. Miss Susan married a prosperous civil engineer, Mr. Henry C. Moore.

In those days women did not attempt two vocations at a time. When they married, they gave up professional life, and devoted themselves to the home and family. Consequently new principals were sought for the Academy, a Miss Mayhew and Miss Abigail Clark, who conducted it from 1840 to 1843. Miss Clark married Mr. Jared M. Stone, a Presbyterian, Miami 1834, later a minister, teacher and college president.

Not much is known of the Academy, except that,

## EARLY YEARS

under the guidance of various principals, it would flourish until the principal married some professor, minister, or at least a member of the church, according to the fashion of the times in Oxford, and then it would be temporarily suspended. To remedy this situation, and get a more permanent system for the education of their daughters, the citizens of Oxford organized a stock company for the purpose of founding a female institute.

Dr. John Witherspoon Scott, one of the three sponsors of the Bethania Crocker school, had successfully organized a "Female Seminary" as a part of Farmers College, where he had gone on the severance of his connection with Miami. He was now invited to return to Oxford and establish such an institution. Dr. Scott was happy to come back to the home and Presbytery where he had spent seventeen happy years, to embrace the opportunity to further the project in which his heart lay; for so earnest had been his zeal that in the Farmers College Seminary, consisting of thirty young ladies, twelve of them had boarded in his own home.

The new, and yet the old institution, now was incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio as "The Oxford Female Institute" a copy of which document appears on page three of the appendix.

In April 1849, Dr. Scott had fulfilled his engagement and mission in connection with Farmers College, and had secured this special charter from the Legislature of Ohio. So it was with high ambitions to make of the new college an institution literally and truly a college, the equal of those available to men, that he



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

set out from Farmers College, College Hill, Ohio, with ten or twelve chattering girls of his former school, and with his female assistant, in an omnibus for Oxford. They started early in the morning, having about forty miles to travel; stopped for a picnic lunch in a grove at noon, and arrived in Oxford by sun-down, "a happy, joyous set of girls with bright anticipations for the new school year." A strong effort had been made to retain Dr. Scott's school in College Hill, but the girls without a single exception came with him to Oxford.

To house the Institute a two-story brick building, 40 by 53 feet, was being erected in the western part of Oxford, which was more wilderness than a part of town and where only a sawmill had stood. This faced on West Street (College Avenue). Dr. Scott had planned a larger building, but failing to raise sufficient funds for that, he had compromised on the two-story one.

This building was not completed when Dr. Scott and his omnibus arrived. He, therefore, set up a home at the northeast corner of High Street and University Avenue, which was later, and for many years, the home of Mr. William Swart Rogers, who was one of the mainstays of the Oxford Female College. This now is Miami's Simpson Guest House.

In this home he accommodated several boarding pupils while his first permanent assistant, Miss Caroline Neal, who was also his sister-in-law, made a home for other non-resident pupils at No. 2 College Street (University Avenue) about where the Sheffield Richy home now stands. This household must have moved

## EARLY YEARS

later to 10 South East Street (Campus Avenue),<sup>1</sup> now a part of the ground on which the present Phi Delta Theta national headquarters stands. Here housewifery in all its branches was taught "gratuitously"—"Board at \$1.50 if paid in advance, or \$1.75 at the end of the session." "The young ladies" assisted in the domestic duties, and dubbed it the "Bee Hive." "Co-operative housekeeping" was even then being inaugurated, and glib names were given to their quarters, a practice continued by students to this day, over a hundred years later. As might be expected in a small household, there were two pets—"Tom," the cat, and "Trip Scott," a small black and white and blue spotted dog. These pets, at least Tom, must have been well known to the University students, for on the demise of Tom, one wrote an "Elegy on a Favorite Cat," while another moved by the "cat-astrophe" wrote a "Requies-cat-in-Pace." Tom was buried by his bereaved owners without much pomp on the banks of Bull Run. Trip, living to a ripe old age, prompted an article which appeared in the *Philaethian* wherein he was compared to "Caesar," a greyhound, with honors going to Caesar. Whatever his shortcomings, eventually he was taken by his admirers and playmates to their new home—The Oxford Female College. There he finished his life's span. Being an aristocrat, at least in name, he was buried with "full honors" and ceremony on the College grounds. In after years Mrs. R. S. McClintock (mother of Mrs. A. H. Upham) recalled that, as Sarah Jane Smith, it had been her duty to care

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1. Authority of Miss Julia Rogers, a student at the Institute at the time.

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

for "Trip Scott."

Dr. Scott started his classes in the rooms of the Theological Seminary (the basement) of the Associate Reformed church, now known as the United Presbyterian. Entrance to the Auditorium was by two long flights of steps on the outside of the building. One entrance faced the East, another, the West. A third entrance on the south side via a ramp was presumably built for those unable to climb the steps. The space under the steps was utilized by the younger children for play houses. Miss Mary B. Mollyneaux (Mrs. Minor Millikin), '52, and Miss Belle B. Matthews (Mrs. Samuel McMullin), '52, had charge of these playhouses.

By May 31, 1849, a board of trustees for the Oxford Female Institute had been organized as follows:

Alford Luce, Esq., President  
Peter Sutton, Esq., Secretary  
Samuel R. Mollyneaux, Treasurer  
Dr. Thomas Boude  
Philip D. Matson  
Reuben E. Hills  
William A. Irwin  
Herman B. Mayo  
Francis H. Peyton

These gentlemen sent forth a prospectus, a part of which read: "Oxford now affords the very best facilities for the education of both males and females; and parents having children of both sexes to educate, will do well to turn their attention to this place, whether they wish to send them from home, or to settle themselves, where their children may enjoy the benefit of the best schools in the Western Valley, while under their own paternal roof."

The cost of these opportunities was as follows:

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Primary Department	\$ 6.00
Middle Department	9.00
Advanced Department	12.00
Music (extra)	12.00
Drawing and Painting	5.00
French	5.00

Board and lodging in the best families was \$1.50 to \$2.00 per week. (Eggs were six cents per dozen.)

In the fall of 1849, the Theological Seminary required the rooms occupied by the Institute, and Dr. Scott was forced to seek other temporary quarters. These he found on the second floor over the Mollyneaux store, and in the adjoining building on the northwest corner of the Public Square and Main Street. Entrance to the schoolrooms was by an outside stairway, and the playground for the younger children was the street!

In the meantime, Dr. Scott had bought the old Temperance Tavern, southeast corner of High and West streets, a rambling two-story frame house, in which he may have made a few changes. In later years it resembled one after-thought after another. Into this he moved his family and established the boarding department for his teachers and twenty-five to thirty (?) "young ladies." (One record says fifteen boarded there.) Mrs. Scott managed the house, assisted by Irish immigrant girls imported from New York. One hundred or so day pupils attended, who boarded in their own homes or in private homes in the town.

Sometime in 1850, presumably during the summer, the "First Annual Catalogue of the Oxford Female Institute at Oxford, Ohio, 1849-'50" was published. In the list of trustees the names of Mr. Herman



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

B. Mayo and Mr. Francis H. Peyton do not appear, but those of Dr. Alexander Porter and Mr. Elias Kumler do. It is assumed the former did not serve during the school year and that the latter took their places on the board.

Instructors for the year are listed as:

Rev. John W. Scott, D.D., Principal  
Miss Caroline A. Neal, First Assistant and  
Instructor in Music and French  
Miss Amanda A. Howard, Second Assistant  
Miss Frances A. Burns  
Miss Anna N. Burns  
Miss Mary J. Gilmore  
Miss Cara O. Mayhew  
Miss Philanda P. Pomeroy  
Miss Rebecca B. Tomlinson

The academic year was divided into two sessions, averaging five months each, with intermediate vacations; the first commenced on the last Monday in September, the second on the last Monday in March. The total enrollment was one hundred and thirty-nine. This was twelve years before the founding of Vassar College. The course of instruction was "designed to embrace the whole field of a complete and thorough female education." There were two departments: The Primary, and the Advanced which was subdivided into the Junior, Middle and Senior classes. The whole course required at least four years to complete. This included the Primary department. Such courses as trigonometry, chemistry, astronomy, Latin, intellectual and moral philosophy, logic and evidences of Christianity, required in the senior year, indicate the scholarly trend of instruction in the Institute as opposed to that offered in the so-called finishing schools of the time. The Institute was prepared "to

## EARLY YEARS

give an additional course in Greek, mineralogy, geology, political economy, Butler's Analogy and some higher branches of mathematics, with their application to astronomy and general physics to such as will remain an additional year." The catalogue states that "the Institution being by charter empowered to confer degrees and grant diplomas of scholarship, regular diplomas will be given to all who shall satisfactorily complete the regular course: and certificates of proficiency at any time, when desired."

As one would expect, since Dr. Scott had previously worked closely, amicably and harmoniously with the Reverend Robert H. Bishop both at Miami and in Farmers College, the government was parental, appealing to reason and urging the claims of morality. If a young woman did not find that suited to her inclination, she was quickly, though quietly, dismissed.

While good scholarship was emphasized, "social manners and habits, moral and religious feelings were carefully and sedulously guarded and cultivated." Reading the Scripture, with prayer, was a daily exercise. Attendance at some church, at least once every Sabbath, was required.

The "new and commodious building, for the accommodation of the Institute, containing a spacious chapel, and a sufficiency of other eligible rooms for recitation and other school purposes" was completed in the summer of 1850 and "quite a flourishing school of boarding and day pupils took it over." Since no space in the building was designed for living quarters, boarders not living in Dr. Scott's home continued to board with the "best families at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per

week." This price was consistent with the low cost of food and the plainer menus of the day. Fancy and expensive salads, and fruits from the borders of the continent were not indulged in, nor was fresh salt-water fish.

The Institute had very little money, not enough to buy furniture, but it had plenty of good neighbors. Judge Claybaugh, a member of the Associate Reformed church, was deeply interested in Dr. Scott's endeavors. He is alleged to have told that Miami boys got wagons, went into the country where they collected provisions — anything that would sell — had a sale and raised money enough to buy furniture for the Institute! What energetic lads they were, and how willing to help a sister institution. This has been a characteristic of the Miami student all down through the years. It also illustrates how closely connected the two institutions have been from the beginning.

A Miami publication rather whimsically intimates that the Oxford Female Institute, and later the Oxford Female College were modelled after Miami. While that is possible, would not a man of Dr. Scott's standards, education, experience and interest in higher education for women be abundantly able to model his own institution? He, who had begun his work for higher education for women in Farmers College of which the Seminary was a part? Perhaps higher education was according to a given pattern at the time. And perhaps Miami was justified in claiming to be a model, for two of her faculty taught at the Institute — Professor Swing and Professor Robert H. Bishop,

## EARLY YEARS

Jr., who taught Latin. There was one decided similarity between the two institutions. Each had literary societies which were taken seriously. At the Institute, the Philalethian and the Calliopean were strong and well-nourished organizations. Each had its hall and its own library. Nevertheless the Institute and the Oxford Female College were unique and possessed characteristics that made the schools different from any sister institutions.

In the November 1, 1852, issue of the *Philalethian* Dr. Scott announced that he was "happy to inform the public" that he had associated with him in the instruction and management of the school, the Reverend H. Maltby, a gentleman long and favorably known as an educator and as a principal of the Kentucky Collegiate Institute at Flemingsburgh; that he hoped "to carry out the original plan for the Institute." He declared the range of studies to be "extensive and embracing all the elements of a solid and polite female education."

The cost of this "female education" had increased. To wit:

Tuition in the Preparatory Department	\$12.00 per yr.
Junior class	16.00 per yr.
Middle class	20.00 per yr.
Senior class	24.00 per yr.
Collegiate Year	30.00 per yr.
Board and lodging, \$1.75 to \$2.25 per week. Rooms and accommodations may be had for young ladies wishing to board themselves.	

Transportation to and from Oxford was becoming somewhat easier for there was "communication twice a day with Hamilton by an omnibus connecting with cars on the C.H. & D. R.R., shortly to be superseded



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by a railroad the whole distance," it was announced.

In three years (1852) the enrollment had grown to one hundred and seventy-two pupils. Consequently the "new and commodious building" was soon found insufficient to accommodate the growing number of pupils. From a distance students were clamoring for admission as boarders — too many for the available accommodations. Parents wanted their daughters, when away from home, to live directly under the supervision of the principal of the school. Therefore, "the operations of the school would be decidedly limited, and its efficiency crippled," unless this want could be satisfied.

How to find means for the necessary enlargement was a problem fraught with trials and tribulations. Nevertheless a solution was attempted several times, on various plans under the original arrangement, but failed. Difficulties, seemingly insurmountable, sprang up at every turn. "Generous friends proffered liberal aid if the original plan could be carried out on another site, and under more favorable auspices."

Not dismayed by these perplexing problems, and rather encouraged by the success of the Institute and the earnest and omnipresent desire of Dr. Scott to "found a great literary institution for female education with ample grounds, buildings and accommodations" and "after consultation with a number of intelligent and judicious Christian citizens," the friends of this type of education determined to seek a new site, to proceed with such an enterprise, to found a college which would be under the patronage of their church. To their minds the proper, intellectual and

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Christian cultivation of woman called for such an enterprise. This was in truth the development of a plan adopted in the organization of the Oxford Female Institute. "Numerous colleges for young men were rising in the Valley, but there were fewer superior schools for young women" ran their argument.

Dr. Scott, the Reverend W. S. Rogers, the Reverend Henry Maltby, Presbyterian clergymen and able educators, members of the second church, and other friends offered to try to raise the money for the desired, and, indeed, necessary expansion, to found a college.

To the Reverend Mr. Rogers, a retired missionary from the foreign field, the missionary cause was first in his heart, while a lively interest in education was second. He knew by experience the financial and educational problems of the missionary. He became the financial agent for the project.

Mr. Rogers' idea of the college was that it be open to all, but primarily to the daughters of missionaries; that it relieve the missionary parent of much, if not all of the expense for his daughter's education; that it lessen the burden, pressure and worry of missionary boards; that it be not in the category of private enterprise; that it eventually be a ward of the Presbyterian church.

At once, Mr. Ebenezer Lane, a well-to-do and generous-hearted citizen who was "a patron of education, a man of large Christian benevolence," offered thirty-four acres of his land on the northeastern limits of Oxford for a college, as well as a generous sum of money for its endowment. To those interested in this

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

project, this seemed like a heaven-sent windfall. The lay of the land was delightful; "beautifully diversified by nature; bound on the east by a large stream from which rose a bluff some eighty feet, breaking into picturesque ravines, finely wooded by the natural growth." It was isolated; away from distractions, and yet of easy access; in short an ideal location for a college. Thereupon the munificent offer was immediately accepted, and Mr. Rogers went campaigning for \$100,000, the estimated amount needed.

The proposed change of location for the institution which the people of Oxford had sponsored, and which the Stock Company had successfully established, produced important results immediately. The stockholders were not slow to speak their minds. Great dissatisfaction and heated arguments arose among a large proportion of those interested in the Institute. They argued that the distance for their daughters to go each day was too great; that the proposed site was in a wilderness (which was largely true before clearings and landscaping could be finished); that the Institute building could be enlarged. They discounted the fact that the present holdings were not, and could not be made, as attractive and altogether satisfactory as the proposed site. They further complained that after they had contributed funds to build and equip the Institute, it would be bad faith now to desert them and establish a rival institution. Dr. Scott thought that if there were two institutions, there would be work for both; that while the Institute would especially help Oxford, a college would have a wider field and greater patronage.

## EARLY YEARS

All of this split the patrons of the Institute into two factions. The larger one protested the change so vigorously that in the middle of the winter in 1855 Dr. Scott found it necessary to retire from the Institute building with his boarding school pupils, and such of the pupils from the town whose parents were satisfied with the change, which were a "very considerable number," and until a new building could be built and equipped, to lease temporarily the "Oxford Hotel," then vacant, on the northeast corner of High and Poplar streets, the building that was later known as the "Girard Hotel," and still later as the "Spinning Wheel." Here impish girls sometimes leaned out the second floor windows and cried to passersby: "Look up, look up" and instantly vanished. The new school (seventy-eight in attendance) was continued in these quarters, and the boarding department in the Scott home, until September, 1856, when the handsome building on the bluff, overlooking the Tallawanda, was completed.

Through the influence of the disgruntled members of the Stock Company, the Institute in 1855 passed into the hands of the Reverend James Hervey Buchanan and Mr. B. W. Hair, under the patronage of the United Presbyterian church, with the Reverend Mr. Buchanan as its president. Heretofore the members mainly connected with the Institute had been members of the First Presbyterian church, or "Old School."

A substantial three-story brick dwelling house, with porches on three sides, was erected a few feet south of the Institute building to accommodate the



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faculty and boarding pupils. This house was connected with the Institute building, which contained only recitation rooms and a chapel, by a covered latticed porch between the second stories of the two buildings. A high board fence surrounded the property, and another divided the front lawn from the barn yard.

An advertisement for the Oxford Female Institute in the Oxford Citizen, October 31, 1857, lists the faculty and prices as follows:

Rev. J. H. Buchanan, A.M., Principal and Professor of Languages and of Natural, Mental and Moral Science

Edwin L. Barrett, A.M., Associate Principal and Professor of Instrumental and Vocal Music

Professor O. N. Stoddard, A.M., Lecturer in Chemistry, Botany and Natural Philosophy

Miss Linda P. Pomeroy, M.C.L., First Assistant

Miss Sara Crume, Principal of Primary and Preparatory Departments

Mrs. M. S. Buchanan, Teacher of Drawing, Painting, Ornamental Work

Miss Lizzie De Pumpelly, Assistant Teacher of Piano and Music

Professor J. C. Christin, M.D., Teacher of Modern Languages

The sessions commence on the last Monday of August; the third Monday in January.

Tuition from \$4.00 to \$18.00 per session according to studies

Music, Piano, Melodeon, male teaching \$36.00 per year

Music, Guitar 36.00 per year

Drawing, twenty-four lessons 6.00 per year

Painting in oil, twenty-four lessons \$18.00 per year

Monochromatic, Ornamental Leather Work, Wax Work, Embroidery, Papier Mache, etc., etc., at usual prices

There were no graduates at the Institute in 1855, as too many students had followed Dr. Scott.

The Institute under Dr. Buchanan, as it had been under Dr. Scott, was a deeply religious organization. Sunday was still a day of rest, quiet meditation, and church service, with earnest prayer. But dire circumstances excuse many laxities, and there came a Sunday

## EARLY YEARS

in 1861 when there was an exception to the usual observance.

The University Rifles, who had been drilling steadily, were suddenly ordered to leave the following Monday. The only day for preparation was the Sabbath! Perhaps the patriotic women of Oxford thought "the better the day, the better the deed." At all events, it was on a Sunday that the town's red flannel was made into shirts for their soldier lads and the silk, for which Professor Stoddard had wired to Cincinnati, into a banner. It was a Sunday that sewing machines buzzed all day and into the night in the chapel of the Institute and in the parlor of the Stoddard home. But when the Rifles left on Monday, they carried the beautiful new banner, and every man of them had his back warmed with a flaming red flannel shirt. <sup>1</sup>

After a matter of some weeks, the Reverend Mr. Rogers reported that his canvass for funds had resulted in \$50,000, "a large portion of which, however, unfortunately," to quote Dr. Scott, "was in scholarships, not merely missionaries, but many of them individual scholarships to be repaid in tuition, or both in tuition and board." Twenty thousand dollars of this had been donated by the people of Oxford and the immediate vicinity.

A Board of Trustees for the new literary institution for female education was formed under the patronage of the Synod of Cincinnati of the Presbyterian church. The Honorable Noah Wade of Venice, Ohio,

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1. "Old Oxford Houses."

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

was president of the Board which numbered thirty; the Reverend Henry Maltby was secretary and treasurer, with the Reverend W. S. Rogers the financial agent.

A charter from the State of Ohio was granted January 19, 1854, and "The Oxford Female College" was launched. The Reverend John W. Scott, D.D., as Principal, and teacher of Ancient Languages and of Natural, Intellectual and Moral Science, was assisted by Mrs. Mary N. Scott, Vice-Principal, and teacher of Music, Painting and Ornamental Flower Work; Miss Fannie A. Burns, teacher of History and Geography, and Principal of the Preparatory Department; Miss Annie N. Burns, teacher of Mathematics and the Advanced English Branches; Miss Harriet O. Wanee, Assistant in Languages and Mathematics; Miss Mary J. Babcock, teacher of Piano Music; Miss Carrie O. Mayhew, teacher of Guitar Music and Drawing; Professor O. N. Stoddard, A.M., Lecturer in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy; Professor Charles Hruby, A.M., teacher of Modern Languages.

The catalogue of 1855 lists the prominent features of the plan adopted for the College as:

1. In moral, literary and scientific grade, and in all its facilities for a thorough intellectual and moral training, this shall take rank with the first institutions in the country.
2. Its endowments shall be such as to enable its conductors greatly to cheapen the rates usually paid in such institutions, and thus bring its advantages within reach of the industrious and laboring classes, as well as those of easier circumstances; \$100,000 is deemed requisite for this purpose. Then the whole expense of boarding and tuition can be reduced at least to \$100.00 per annum for each pupil. Facilities will also be afforded to those who

## EARLY YEARS

- prefer the plan of self-boarding.
3. It shall be strictly a public institution. No private rights or interests of any kind will be allowed. Its lands, buildings, and appurtenances of every kind, are held in trust by a Board of Directors, selected from different parts of the great Western Valley. This Board has been duly incorporated under the laws of Ohio, with the power for the present to perpetuate their own existence under certain restrictions named in the charter.
  4. In a spirit of generous liberality to all Christian denominations, and disclaiming all desire or intention to make it in any objectionable form sectarian, yet for reasons obvious in every reflecting mind, it was deemed wisest and best to secure the largest degree of unanimity and cordiality in its control; and as the Presbyterian churches were relied on chiefly for the funds necessary in the endowment, the Directors were chosen largely from her communion. For the same reason, the male professors are required to belong to the same denomination.

### The objects of the College were:

1. These are first and chiefly to glorify God in edification of his church, and the conversion of the world.
2. To train young ladies for all the high and holy responsibilities devolving upon them in social and domestic life.
3. To secure on the part of all its pupils a hearty and entire personal consecration to their Redeemer, minds well disciplined by study, and stored with knowledge in all departments of a sound and liberal education, and above all, a familiar acquaintance with the oracles of divine truth.
4. To contribute its part towards furnishing the country with teachers more adequately qualified, and the home and foreign missionary fields with laborers.
5. To offer the very best means of education at very reduced rates to the daughters of missionaries and indigent ministers generally.
6. To receive all pupils of this class free of charge for tuition, and boarding as nearly at cost as the means of the institution will permit, after the new building is completed. It is believed that all such pupils can be boarded and educated for about sixty dollars per annum. Hence a perpetual scholarship of this kind is offered at one thousand dollars.



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

The original general plan was to use only about \$25,000 to \$30,000 in a building, plus whatever additional amount would be necessary for furniture and equipment, and "to invest the remainder of the ready cash, or that should after be subscribed, as endowment, the income of which was to apply on faculty salaries and to lower tuition rates."

Although \$100,000 was the estimated sum needed, and only \$50,000 subscribed, the Trustees had confidence that the other \$50,000 would eventually be subscribed, for was not the project under the sponsorship of the Presbyterian church? Had not a considerable sum of the \$50,000 come from friends of the church? Therefore, contractors were asked to bid on the proposed building. When these bids were opened, the lowest amounted to over \$40,000. While this was considerably more than they had planned to spend, the Board accepted the terms on the faith of what had been subscribed. Surely this was "wishful thinking," but founded on deep faith.

By the time steam-heating and the gas-lighting apparatus were installed, the expense had run up to about \$60,000. The cost of musical instruments, furnishings, various stables and other out-houses, and improvement of the grounds added \$20,000, bringing the total to over \$80,000. Subsequent improvements made the total of buildings, furniture, library, and apparatus \$100,000.

The cruciform building was 155 feet front by 171 feet and 6 inches deep to the end of the rear wing, exclusive of porches. One hundred rooms were for students, besides those for the accommodation of the

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family of the Principal, teachers, steward's family, domestics, dining hall, recitation rooms, society halls, and the chapel which would seat eight hundred. Evidently the town, other institutions of Oxford, and the entire countryside were expected to attend various functions, or were the Directors still indulging in "wishful thinking?" The circulars sent out by the College emphasized the ventilation, pure water, "bathing rooms fitted up with all the appliances for warm and cold bathing," the gas lighting, and the steam heating. So much stress was laid on the steam heating that Jimmy, the janitor, was led to quip that "there was more heat in the catalogue than in the pipes!"

"The Directors felicitated themselves that no institution in the country could present superior attractions; that the scale of magnificence was at least unsurpassed in the West" and quite equal to those in the East.

A circular sent out in 1855 explaining the mission of the College said:

"Oxford being the seat of Miami University, long occupying the first place among Western colleges, and also of a Theological Seminary, and two respectable Female Seminaries, to which a third is soon to be added, it has necessarily created around it an atmosphere redolent with science and literature which no aspiring youth of either sex can long breathe without feeling its genial influence. If ever we are to realize these glorious visions of prophecy, seeing the Zion of God to 'arise and shine, her light going forth as brightness and her salvation as a lamp that burneth,' not only must her sons be 'nurtured as plants grow up in their youth,' but her daughters must also be made 'as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace.' It is well for us to mark the important position which God has given to woman in the great social and domestic temple. He has placed her as 'the

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corner stone,' and hence the wisdom and fitness of polishing her with utmost care. In education as in architecture, no edifice, however costly the material or elaborate the workmanship in other respects, can ever be made elegant, refined or elevated in its tone, till women are duly and properly educated."

In the fall of 1856, the long-awaited-for and elegant building, which took four years to be erected, was completed. At the opening of the fall term, Dr. Scott and his school of "some two hundred pupils" entered it with pomp and ceremony, for Dr. Scott was an aristocrat. He began and continued to run the College on a large scale, with servants in buttons and livery. Of the two hundred pupils, over one hundred were boarding pupils from a distance.

On September 3, 1856, the building was dedicated in a high and dignified style in keeping with the momentous occasion. The following dedicatory hymn, written by Mrs. Lydia H. Sigourney, was read:

Giver of Knowledge! bless the dome  
That liberal hands have made  
So beautiful for those who seek  
Instruction's fostering aid,  
And give them here that wealth to find  
Of Learning's priceless store  
Which girds the mind, though glittering gold  
Fleets to return no more.

Father of Wisdom! May the groups  
Who to these shades repair  
Win armor for their unknown lot  
Of duty and of care,  
Grant strength according to their need  
Pure love's undying flame  
And aid the teachers and the taught  
To glorify thy name.

God of the Spirit! Touch with life  
All who in future time,  
When we are sleeping in the grave

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Here seek for truth sublime,  
And may they, through thy blessed light  
That glorious portion prize  
The Heavenly house not made with hands  
Eternal in the skies.

The Reverend Joseph Warren, D.D., for seventeen years a missionary in India, delivered an address<sup>1</sup> on the "Missionary Feature of the Institution," elaborating the theme that "the designers and founders of this Institution had sought to lay its foundations with stones of faith."

The Reverend James C. Moffatt, D.D., delivered the dedicatory address.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Moffatt had been professor of Latin and Modern History at Miami from 1841 to '53, when he was called to the chair of the Latin Language and Literature in Nassau Hall, Princeton University. It was fitting that a former Miami professor should deliver this address. In Dr. Thomas Jefferson Porter's book, "The Presbyterian Church of Oxford," he speaks of Dr. Moffatt as a "courtly Christian gentleman, a man of great scholarship, and the author of several books." No one with qualifications less than these would have been satisfactory to Dr. Scott as speaker for this occasion. The address must have struck a new note for his audience, and just the note dear to Dr. Scott's heart.

Dr. Moffatt must have been ahead of his time, for he distinguished between a college and a university. He advised not to lower the instruction to what had been generally considered suitable for women to know, but to appeal to the best capacities of the fem-

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1. Printed in full in the catalogue of 1855.



inine mind. He laid great stress on the value of education as "a broad liberal culture"; to become an excellent wife and mother, noble as these callings were, was not enough; the powers of woman's mentality should be raised; education should "lift the human mind above mere bald necessities of its temporal being by means of independent culture; whereby the individual is also to adapt himself, or herself, readily to the duties which ever varying conditions impose." Dr. Moffatt believed that just as for men, it was necessary to have professional seminaries and apprenticeships as well as colleges, so for women too there should be further educational opportunities when they had made up their minds what their occupations were to be. But a college of Liberal Arts should come first.

If the speaker spoke clearly, so did the administration, for in the matriculation book above the name of the girls registered appears this pledge: "We whose names are hereunto subscribed, pupils of the Oxford Female College, promise obedience to all rules and regulations of the Institution as long as we remain connected with it as pupils. Oxford Female College, September 3, 1856."

The opening was auspicious; the enrollment encouraging; the faculty well-trained and adequate; the building (known for years as the Scott House) and grounds all that could be desired; the apparent surface smooth and highly satisfactory; the corporation composed of such men as Mr. John Ferguson, father of Oxford's late Mr. Bruce Ferguson, and a trustee of the Presbyterian church, who was listed as "Superintendent of the Corporation," and men of similar

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calibre. But in spite of all the flourish, the College had started off with a "crushing debt," and added to this was the lavish expense of running it.

While food was exceedingly cheap as compared with prices today (eggs were less than a cent apiece, potatoes twenty-five cents a bushel, and butter about fifteen cents a pound), and servant wages gratuitously low (a woman servant in the dining room received \$2.00 per week), the financial embarrassment was acute. There was a full school, but as Dr. Scott wrote later, "too many of the pupils were on the foundation of scholarships (both for board and tuition) that had been subscribed; whose money had gone into the building, thereby eating upon the boarding establishment" to bring in sufficient funds to keep it on an even keel and support the faculty.

As usually happens when there is financial embarrassment, Dr. Scott, though the soul of integrity and honor, acquired some enemies. Certain interest-bearing debts, and many of them at the fabulous rate of ten per cent, became pressing. "Due to many embarrassing circumstances the patronage began to be withdrawn and directed towards Wooster University."

"Finally, to give the coup-de-grace to the institution," the Synod of Cincinnati of the Presbyterian church, under whose sanction the Board of Trustees had been organized, and who had "resolved" to raise \$20,000 to save the College, after years of dalliance and much indifference, finally by formal vote, entirely dissolved its connection with the College; yet the Presbytery of Oxford, April 5, 1854, giving voice to

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the thought of the generous founders of The Oxford Female College, had said: "To secure the same advantages for young ladies as for young men—the Presbytery most cordially commends the Female Institute at Oxford to confidence and support—." And again April, 1859, the Presbytery said: "The Oxford Female College is a sacred trust—by the prayers of God's people solemnly consecrated. May it accomplish the great purpose for which it was founded—especially the religious and mental culture of the children of our missionaries." Dr. Worrall, pastor of the first and third churches in Oxford, 1851-1854, had declared: "Dr. Scott's school was a recruiting office for missionary women and missionary wives."

Of course, subscriptions began to falter and finally ceased. The very arm on which the College leaned, the religious public, failed it in its hour of need. Not much wonder that during another crisis (1928) the College did not look to the church for aid, though, of course, the College was non-sectarian by that time. So there was no special reason to seek, or expect, assistance from any particular church.

In a sketch of Dr. Scott's, telling of his association with the Oxford Female College, written in Jefferson, Pennsylvania, July 24, 1879, he said:

"Before, however, this final act of total separation and desertion on the part of the Synod, some of the heavy debts of the Institution becoming very pressing, in the exigency of the case some of the members of the Board and other special friends of the enterprise, in their individual capacities associated themselves into a joint stock company to save the institution from

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immediate and threatening danger of failure and bankruptcy, taking to themselves the title of 'The Company in Trust for the Oxford Female College.' This was sometime in the fall or winter of 1857. This company proposed and finally engaged to assume the debts, together with the possessorship, in trust, of the College till such a time as they should succeed in releasing it from the encumbrance of its debts, and then to reconvey it back to the Synod and its chartered Board, to be a public institution for the benefit of the church and the world forever, according to its original plan, as soon as they should be refunded for their outlay in its relief. But, after taking the thing in hand and paying off considerable amount of the immediately pressing debt, the Company found that in consequence of the drawing back of certain parties, who were with some ground of confidence expected to become partners, they were left too weak, pecuniarily, to manage the whole debt, and were therefore under the necessity of giving up the effort and surrendering back the property to the Synod and the Board, relieved as it was by the debt they had already paid off. This they did, making the whole stock subscribed a free donation to the institution, amounting to quite a large sum. This effort was being made from the fall of 1857 to the fall of 1858.

"Still a large debt remained, unliquidated, under which the College struggled, as it became more and more pressing during the winter of 1858-'59. In the early spring of 1859, the Reverend Dr. Chester, one of the secretaries of the General Assembly's Board of Education, distinguished for his skill in financial agen-



cy, and deeply interested in the cause of church education, by request came from Philadelphia to meet with the Board for the purpose of consulting and advising as to the best means of entirely relieving the Institution from its pecuniary embarrassments. By his suggestion the first thing done was to call in a skilled accountant to overhaul the books and ascertain the precise balance of remaining indebtedness, which was made out to be a fraction over \$35,000. It was then determined to send out two more special agents, additional to Brother Rogers, the regular agent, to make a desperate effort to raise the means to meet this debt speedily; so as to prevent its further accumulation by interest, and to save the institution to the church for its original end and design; to assure the subscribers that their money should not be thrown away, by being paid out, without the extinction of the whole debt.

"The subscription was conditioned upon the whole amount being bona fide subscribed before any part was binding. Accordingly we set out on a three month's agency, viz. Brother Rogers, Brother Stewart, then pastor of the Oxford Presbyterian church, and myself; the ministerial brethren about Oxford agreeing to supply Brother Stewart's pulpit for him, and Reverend James A. L. Lowes with his lady, being at the time in Oxford and unemployed, agreeing to remove into the College building and occupy my place in the superintendency during our absence and engagement in the agency. We each took our separate field and labored hard, but when we brought in reports, we found that the utmost amount which we

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were able to raise on subscription was, when summed up, about \$20,000. This was so far below the amount required and there seemed no hope for the necessary increase of it, and the necessities of the Institution becoming still more urgent and pressing, all concerned seemed to give the matter up in discouragement and settle down to the conclusion that it must go to sale in some way, either privately or by the sheriff.

"During the session this final effort was being made, Stephen Wade, Esq., a man of great Christian benevolence and philanthropic spirit, sustained the boarding establishment and other necessary contingent expenses at his own private risk and responsibility for whatever amount the school, through its pay scholars for tuition and board might bring in, which I presume fell considerably short of his outlay." Dr. Scott served the last half of the year without salary. This plus abatement of his salary while the building was in the course of erection, by "primary donations and other subsequent minor donations for little improvements and by stock paid in connection with the 'Company in Trust' amounted to between \$20,000 and \$25,000, the principal part of his little means."

Some of the very people who had failed in performing their duty ridiculed and censured Dr. Scott. Even some of the Miami students, peeved over what they considered petty rules, made him the butt of many jokes.

To increase the opportunities for the "young ladies" and at the same time to save duplication, apparatus and expense, Dr. Scott took his students to lectures in "Old Egypt," Miami's laboratory for the

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natural sciences, a small building slightly southwest of Harrison Hall, and long since removed. Professor Stoddard delivered these lectures with so much fire and enthusiasm, they were said to be drawing cards for Miami. Interesting as they were, the boys, not above playing pranks,<sup>1</sup> sometimes took occasion to drive home some point of interest to them, such as the privilege of more frequent calls at the College. Accordingly, without warning during one of these lectures, a sheet was let down from the skylight on which was drawn an unmistakable picture of a donkey, ridden by Mrs. Scott, with the caption: "The Powers That Be."

Was this a contributing factor for the cessation of these coeducational classes? More likely the withdrawal of Dr. Scott, who was intensely interested in natural science, was a more conclusive reason.

As affairs now stood, the ten years which Dr. Scott had given in desperate labor to establish and build up the College seemed fruitless, and he felt obliged to resign the presidency and leave the College. This he did in July, 1859.

Others, too, had labored and sacrificed and given generously, such as Dr. Alexander Guy, who gave some \$15,000; Judge Nehemiah Wade, \$5,000; Ebenezer Lane who gave land and a large donation of money; the Reverend W. S. Rogers, Mr. S. R. Mollyneaux, Mrs. Hindman, wife of Judge Hindman, and others who gave from \$25 to \$1,000. One authority says these gifts ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,500. During

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1. See "Old Oxford Houses."

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the year of 1857, the Reverend Samuel Hair gave effective service to Mr. W. S. Rogers, the regular agent, in obtaining subscriptions of scholarships.

## MIDDLE YEARS

**D**ESPITE all that had been done or could be done, and with adequate enrollment of students, the hour of reckoning had come. The College was in imminent danger of suspension, if not direct failure. Students were applying for instruction and accommodations, and the means were not forthcoming. But to close the doors of the College was not to be considered. Too much labor, money and thought and genuine interest had gone into the enterprise. A way must be found to keep the College functioning. A new president must be secured. If the walls of Miami's Simpson Guest House could speak, they could tell of many anxious committee meetings held there, of the deep interest and concern Mr. Samuel Mollyneaux and Mr. Rogers had in the welfare of the College.

After Dr. Scott left, the Reverend J. B. Stewart, D.D., was acting president until the accession of the next president.

With the College in a precarious state financially, the Reverend Dr. Desha Morris, for eighteen years pastor of the Presbyterian church in Newtown, Pennsylvania, an educator of note, and a good business man, was induced to accept the urgent call to the



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presidency in the fall of 1859. While at Newtown, Dr. Morris had organized a school. "He was an earnest worker and bravely surmounted the difficulties which beset the onward way of education." He must have had a greater interest in education than in preaching to take hold of as thorny a plant as the College was at that time, beset with debt and hard pressed by its various creditors.

Dr. Morris assumed some of the debts, persuaded the College to issue bonds, which he bought, took up mortgages on the property, and managed to keep the College doors open, but involved himself rather deeply. At first the College had belonged to the people of Oxford, then to the Synod of the Presbyterian church, and now it was passing into private hands. It remained as a private enterprise, though not always in the same hands, until 1910. Thus a second crisis was met and passed.

Under Dr. Morris, the parental fashion of government was continued "to remind them they were daughters of one common family."

Since Dr. Morris was a devout Christian, daily work began with a reading of the Scriptures, with prayer, and the singing of hymns. The Sabbath was a day of rest and religious worship. Calls and visits were made on some other day, for the Oxford Female College did not have "Open House" on Sunday. As there were no automobiles in those days, and as society generally was more "straight laced," this rule was not hard to enforce. A Society of Inquiry on Missions for mutual information, consultation on the state of the world, discussion of the progress of Christianity

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and one's personal duties kept the students' minds from lighter interests.

Resident nurses and "going to the hospital" were not in the everyday life. Consequently boxes of confections, of oysters, and other delicacies from home were not encouraged and were described as "Pandora boxes full of evil!"

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The President and others frequently gave lectures on subjects of history, morals, manners, and religion. Dr. Morris always wished to have both men and women on his faculty. "This division and combination of influence is found to be exceedingly happy in a female college such as this," said the President.

The course of study was intended "to embrace everything essential to the proper development of the intellectual and moral powers of woman, and to give her the education she really needs. It was not so much to fill the mind with knowledge as to aid in the formation of those habits of patient thought and investigation that in after years will enable them to add to their own store in every or any department that inclination, or duty may suggest." After the preparatory department, four years were necessary to complete the course.

There was no arbitrary age limit, but generally speaking, boarding pupils under twelve years were not desired. The enrollment from 1859 to 1876 varied from a minimum of sixty-six to a maximum of one hundred and forty-four.

Mary Meehan (Mrs. Chubb), '62, recalling her college days in after years, said: "Days when war was raging, close at hand too, all hearts were filled with

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anxiety. Nearly half of the girls were from southern homes. When news of the firing on Fort Sumter startled the country, sad farewells were said to most of them, as fathers came to take them home. The class of '62 was left with only two members."

The religious atmosphere and influence permeated Oxford in those days. The College girls were helping to support a mission school at Dehra Dorn, India. Although the College was in need of funds, yet it was helping another school less fortunate. That spirit of generosity dominated the entire history of Oxford College.

Concerning endowment, the catalogue of 1866 said that "education should be like the breath of heaven—free to all. Hence the poor must be helped." Scholarships of \$2,500 each, called in the name of the donor and invested at six to eight per cent were eagerly sought. The income was to furnish board and tuition primarily to daughters of foreign missionaries and of poor Christian families. This was just another effort to enable the College to function according to the original plan.

While the College was thus staggering along, the affairs of the Institute were not going well. The Institute was not originally a boarding school, and the attempt to turn it into one caused its failure. There were not enough boarders for the two schools. Dr. Morris must have acquired some stock in the Institute, for about this time he was made a member of its Board. Whatever the effect of Dr. Morris's influence on the Board, the catalogue and circulars of 1867 carried the following:

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### CARD TO THE PUBLIC

The undersigned has been connected with the Oxford Female Institute and the cause of female education here for nearly twelve years, and he feels desirous that this noble cause should advance to higher degrees of efficiency, and that Oxford should, even more abundantly than heretofore, deserve the title, "The Athens of the West." Believing that these objects will be promoted by the union of the Institute and the College, he has, after consultation with the Trustees of the Institute and other friends of education, cordially transferred his lease and all his interest in the Oxford Female Institute to the Rev. R. D. Morris, President of Oxford Female College, so that both may be carried on under one administration.

With the talent which will be united in the new movement, and the harmonious co-operation of the citizens and the patronage of both, he feels confident that the highest degree of success awaits the united institutions.

J. H. Buchanan, Principal O. F. Institute

### UNION

For the future, this good work will be continued according to the original intent and purpose of each, but under one administration — the Institute for the particular accommodation of the students of Oxford, and the College for boarders from a distance. This union of the friends of education meets with general and hearty approbation, and promises most happy results.

The *Miami Student* referred to this union as the "wedding on June 19, 1867, of Mr. College and Miss Institute."

Even before the union, Miss Nancy Hemphill, the Principal of the Institute, had decided to resign. But some of the ablest teachers, including Miss Jennie Logue and Miss Lizzie Johnson, remained. However, in spite of all efforts, the school was not self-supporting. The reverses of the times crushed out many other schools. The Oxford House — the former boarding house — involved a loss of one thousand dollars. It was evident that another change was due.

On June 20, 1867, the Institute held its last com-



mencement with eleven graduates reading their essays. By the following October the old Institute building was known as the Oxford Hotel. In 1868 there was some demand for a boys' boarding and day school, but that was soon found impracticable.

With a heavy debt hanging over the Oxford Female College, one wonders what plan Dr. Morris had when he took on the Institute, and increased his obligations by at least \$1,500. Some said the Institute was "his elephant." The Honorable Peter Sutton, and others, declared that Dr. Morris had intended to ruin the Institute and had acted in bad faith. By this statement they incurred the everlasting ill will of Dr. Morris.

Whatever his intentions, Dr. Morris was rescued by a new law. The Legislature passed an Act on March 22, 1870, enabling the Trustees of certain literary institutions to sell their property by a vote of three-fourths of the stockholders at a public sale, after six weeks public notice and after payment of their debts to divide the remainder among stockholders, pro rata, and dissolve their corporate existence.

Accordingly the Trustees, and at least three-fourths of the stockholders of the Oxford Female Institute, resolved to sell the Institute property and dissolve its corporate existence. Mr. P. H. Cone, President of the Board, was authorized to advertise the sale for six consecutive weeks in the *Oxford Citizen* and to proceed to sell the property, subject to existing liens, to the highest bidder for cash. All conditions having been fulfilled, on the fourteenth day of May, 1870, the sale was made, at public vendue, of the

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buildings and grounds on the premises to "Mr. Robert D. Morris for the sum of five hundred dollars he being the highest and best bidder thereof." Conveyance of the Institute property to Mr. Morris is recorded as of the twenty-fifth day of June, 1870. In the day book of the Oxford Female College there appears this item: "June 30, 1870, O. F. Institute furniture for the College \$282.67."

Later Dr. Morris claimed he had purchased the Institute lease and property in perfectly good faith; that he had stepped forward to save the Institute and the College from probable collapse and ruin; that a change was absolutely necessary; that he did it with the certainty that it was hazardous; that educators in the Institute generally lost money; that in addition to the \$500 paid for the lease and property, over \$1,000 were spent on repairs and improvements; that he fully intended to make a better school for the people of Oxford than ever before. Somehow he was unable to carry out his intentions. Probably there were too many adverse circumstances.

Meanwhile the affairs of the College, at least on the surface, continued to run smoothly. Public examinations were still in vogue in 1871. At commencement time the literary societies held anniversary exercises at which some outside speaker gave an address and society diplomas were delivered with "a neat little speech."

At the Commencement of 1871, the authorities requested the audience to refrain from applause after each speech. The only reason given was that "it is very difficult to applaud handsomely"! But Jennie

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Brooks' essay, "Our Tyrant—Man," "a vigorous little woman's rights essay," repeatedly brought forth applause. "The essay was short, sharp, and abounding in hits and brilliant sarcasm."

A custom of the time was to decorate the Chapel walls at Commencement time with the art work of Professor Beaugureau's pupils.

In 1875 there was much talk about the need of a new site for the village public school. Dr. Morris offered to sell the Institute lease and property to the local Board of Education. Immediately a war was fought in the *Oxford Citizen* between Dr. Morris and his arch foe, Mr. Peter Sutton. Dr. Morris answered the charge made by Mr. Sutton of "fraud and falsehood" by saying the Institute Trustees and stockholders had appealed to the Legislature of Ohio for an act to sell on a three-fourths vote of stockholders and to close the corporate existence of the Institution; that all that was done "was in strict conformity of the law in the premises." Dr. Morris argued that for about five hundred dollars, the building of the Institute could be made suitable for the public school. The local Board of Education replied that "the Institute was better adapted for a jail than for school purposes!" This controversy waxed hot and involved many more than Dr. Morris and Mr. Sutton. But those two were the only ones who indulged in long articles in the local newspaper. Dr. Morris wrote angrily. Mr. Sutton replied whimsically offering advice, "considering the age of Dr. Morris" and suggesting "that perhaps Dr. Morris should be an inmate of a lunatic asylum, but that others who were acquainted

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with his natural propensity in fictitious writing, would probably think differently"! Then Mr. Sutton blandly offered further advice, "should Dr. Morris desire it, and it would be cheerfully given if Dr. Morris would call on him at his leisure"! All of which of course, infuriated the staid Dr. Morris. The honors in the case rather went to Mr. Sutton, who refused to become angry.

Wherever lay the right and justice of the case, after much printer's ink had been spilled, Dr. Morris was left as the owner of the "elephant," and the Oxford House of the Institute was continued as a summer hotel, patronized by people from Cincinnati.

On July 31, 1874, Miles Greenwood and Company, plaintiffs, filed a petition in the Court of Common Pleas of Butler County, Ohio, against The Oxford Female College, Dr. Robert D. Morris, Trustees and others, to sell the College real estate (33.95 acres) to pay debts. On June 1, 1875, Dr. Morris filed his answer and cross petition, "praying among other things for the sale of said real estate for the purpose of paying certain mortgages and debts owing to him, and others, by The Oxford Female College, and among other indebtedness, certain outstanding and overdue bonds issued by The Oxford Female College amounting to thirty thousand dollars owned and held by him and also other indebtedness to him." These bonds were secured by mortgage, duly executed and recorded. The Court rendered a decree, and an order of the sale was directed to the Sheriff of Butler County, Ohio, with the result that "the said premises were struck off and sold to Robert D. Morris for the sum



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of thirty-five thousand dollars, said Morris being the highest bidder thereof." On the 25th day of September, 1876, the court "approved and confirmed the sale to Robert D. Morris and ordered that after Robert D. Morris should pay a balance of \$19,800 of outstanding bonds issued by The Oxford Female College—which were to be paid by him as a part of the purchase money for the said premises — then the Sheriff of Butler County should execute and deliver to Robert D. Morris a deed in fee simple, free and discharged from all liens." As Dr. Morris never paid the balance, \$19,800 of the purchase money, the Sheriff did not execute or deliver a deed to Dr. Morris for the College real estate.

Almost six years passed when the minutes of the Board of Trustees for June 13, 1882, indicated the brewing of further trouble through the following resolutions:

"Resolved 1st—That in case Dr. Morris should desire a transfer of the chattle (sic) property of the College as mortgaged to him, that, the President and Secretary of the Board be authorized to sell and deliver the same to him on such application.

2d—That on his request the deed for the real estate of the College as adopted by the Board of Directors June 13, 1876, be duly executed by the President and Secretary of the Board in behalf of the Board.

3d—Also that in case Dr. Morris should find it advisable (sic) to remove the College to some other situation in Oxford, that this Board consent to the same while deeply regretting any necessity that may require this measure."

On June 30, 1882, The Oxford Female College "deeded" to Dr. Morris the 33.95 acres—the College real estate. By July 3, 1882, Dr. Morris had assigned the same to his son-in-law, the Reverend La Fayette

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Walker (usually known as Faye Walker) and his wife, Lillie Morris Walker. The Walkers in turn sold it on August 17, 1882, to the Oxford Retreat Company, a corporation organized under the laws of Ohio for a sanitarium, for \$45,000. This company also took up and paid off the unpaid bonds, amounting to \$19,800 and the interest thereon.

Nevertheless, on June 8, 1883, The Oxford Retreat Company was made a party defendant in the cause and filed its answer and cross-petition alleging it had become the owner of the aforesaid real estate. The court upheld the petition of the Retreat Company and directed the Sheriff to execute and deliver "a good and sufficient deed of conveyance" of 33.95 acres in Lot 2, Section 23, sold to Mr. Morris in 1876, to The Oxford Retreat Company.

Dr. Morris, in one way or another, had kept the College afloat for nearly twenty-three years, giving all his energy, time and mind to its affairs, striving to give girls a Christian education. The College, scholastically speaking, had enjoyed a fine reputation as Dr. Morris was able to secure teachers equal to the best the country afforded at the time. But now in failing health, and with property gone, there was nothing else for him to do in the summer of 1882, but to move the Oxford Female College from the spacious and beautiful grounds and building, that had cost so much to keep up, to the less pretentious and smaller quarters of the "late Oxford Female Institute." The enrollment had dwindled to seventy-five.

Dr. Morris planned to refit the Institute building, improve the grounds and then open the College, and

continue the work of educating "young ladies" for which he was so amply prepared and qualified. But the strain had been too much; his health broke even before the moving. He was not to carry out his plans, for he died November 3, 1882. The *Oxford Press* said of him: "To those who knew him best, and who shared his confidence and friendship, he was a noble character, firm in contending for his rights, true to his friends, and thoroughly just to all others."

The death of Dr. Morris, and of two others elected to the presidency before they could assume their duties, the renovation of the buildings and the improvement of the grounds, necessitated the suspension of the College for one year. Finally Dr. La Fayette Walker, a Presbyterian minister of College Hill, Ohio, son-in-law of Dr. Morris, and secretary of the Board of Trustees, was called to the Presidency. He immediately set about the renovations Dr. Morris had planned.

The catalogue of The Oxford Female College in its new site for 1883-'84 shows the two houses separate except as they were connected by a latticed porch between the second stories of each. The buildings were heated by steam, and by this time, probably there was more heat in the pipes than in the catalogue.

The faculty at the time of the reopening of the College consisted of:

Rev. L. F. Walker, President, Mental Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity

Mrs. Lillie M. Walker, Lady Principal, Rhetoric, English Literature

Robert H. Bishop, Jr., A.M. of Miami University faculty, Latin Language and Literature

Rev. S. R. Frazier, Mathematics

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Miss Julia Everts, French, German, Elocution and Calisthenics

Mrs. Eliza M. Avirett, A.M., Preparatory Department and Botany

Miss Fannie F. Carroll, Vocal and Instrumental Music

Miss Sara Levy, Oil Painting, Crayoning, Modelling, etc.

The catalogue announced the aim to be "mental, moral, social and physical culture."

Since Dr. Walker had been carefully trained for public speaking, it was not surprising to find in the catalogue of 1883-'84, "Elocution is taught with unusual care in this college by Miss Julia Everts, one of the most graceful and accomplished of lady elocutionists."

Another effort at polishing was through the "Social Reading Hour," one hour each evening during which one of the lady teachers read aloud from some work of standard excellence, while the "young ladies" were engaged in sewing or fancy work.

The rooms were furnished with cottage bedsteads, two mattresses, one of corn husks, the other of the best curled hair, wardrobe, wash-stand, heating apparatus and carpet.

Each student was required to bring a Bible, a dictionary, one good umbrella, one pair of stout shoes, and one pair of overshoes, as well as bedding, towels and table napkins.

The government was mild but firm, for the College "was a home, not a convent or a prison."

The living expenses were \$100 per semester, and tuition in regular courses including French, German and Latin was \$25 per semester. Music and Art were extra. To carry out the original plan, the daughter of a missionary, or a minister, paid only \$62.50 per



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session of five months. Lest this small sum seem too high for some worthy but poorly paid clergyman, still greater inducements were proposed to permit ministers to educate their daughters with little or no expense. And yet these daughters cost the College as much as daughters of bankers. Is it any wonder the College was forever in debt? More heart than head ruled the College coffers.

That Mrs. Morris should not be left idle, prospective students were requested to address her for a catalogue and general information about the College.

The re-opening was "with all the advantages and requisites of a Young Ladies College of high order and superior excellence" said a published article.

In 1884-'85, the faculty was increased. The enrollment was encouraging. Beginning with sixty-two, it grew to nearly two hundred. Dr. Walker was a captivating speaker, a natural orator. He attracted many students to the College.

Encouraged by bright prospects, the management decided to erect a large addition to the College. This new addition was three stories above basement, and had a large garret for students' trunks. The building had a frontage of  $126\frac{1}{2}$  feet and was 85 feet deep, exclusive of porches. It contained a beautiful new chapel, two literary society rooms, two art halls, a large dining room, about thirty-five new rooms, a few of which were practice rooms. Over one hundred boarders could be accommodated. Instead of two separate buildings, there was now one with porches on three sides. The view of the surrounding country from the third floor windows and the observatory

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was "most delightful." The observatory, a mansard twenty feet above the comb of the roof, was surrounded by an iron railing. A huge cistern in the northwest corner of the College furnished an abundance of filtered soft water.

A course of lectures on the Bible, Literature, Art, Science and Music was delivered by men of ability during the year. Fine teachers of music and art maintained the high reputation the College had enjoyed. French and German were taught by the conversational method. The College continued to include preparatory and collegiate departments. Although there was a public school, the following Oxford boys and girls appeared on the preparatory roster: Earl Walker, Bruce Ferguson, Lillian Thayer, George Shera, Virginia Smith, Parker Rifenbrick, and four Cowen children.

The catalogue of the middle '80's commented on the matter of dress. "Judicious parents will see the importance of discouraging extravagance and fondness of display. Plain, neat, modest apparel only should be furnished. Jewelry, except in a very limited extent, will not be allowed and should not be brought." Emphasis was laid on character and culture rather than on outward show. Neatness was stressed—a far cry from student garb of today. Of course the "plain and neat" was not carried to an extreme. Many of the girls dressed well, but the democratic spirit was so prevalent in the College that the more humbly-dressed girl was accepted by her classmates with as much zest as if she had been expensively arrayed.

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Now that the College was back in town, there was a larger and more regular attendance of the young women at public worship. If the weather on Sunday morning were inclement, Dr. Walker delivered a sermon to the students in the College Chapel. A ready speaker, he always had a speech on tap. While the students enjoyed hearing their President, it curtailed their opportunity to flash an eye at the members of the congregation from the Miami campus. What were a "good umbrella" and "overshoes" for, if not to brave inclement weather? Perhaps they might see the student whose presence in church meant the "South Dorm was out of hymnals." However, from 1879 on, few teachers and students became members of the local churches.

To illustrate the prevailing attitude in the '80's towards education we quote, in part, the pungent article in the *Educational Weekly* from the pen of the late L. Clark Seelye, of Smith College:

"Facts show that, notwithstanding the opening of so many colleges for both sexes, there has never been a period when such large bequests have been made to female colleges. Nor have female colleges been so largely patronized before. Women prefer their own, and so do the men. To most persons, whatever theorists may say, it will continue to seem neither wise nor prudent to send a score of girls between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two away to live in all the familiarity of college life with two or three hundred young men. Give woman the amplest knowledge which it is possible for her, in the ordinary limitation of her life, to attain; give her the widest range of sympathies that the varied conditions of her life can evoke, and at the same time intensify and perfect every true and womanly characteristic, and there is no work to which she may be called that will not be improved by her superior culture."

Scholastic affairs must have taken a step forward,

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for the first Bachelor degrees were conferred on the class of 1886.

By the winter of 1887-'88 another addition to the College building was needed. The faculty and students set out to earn money to contribute to the building fund. The faculty arranged for that elegant entertainment of the '80's—a benefit ice-cream social. The students gave a program to commemorate Mozart's birthday, \$20.11 resulting for the fund.

The *Oxford Citizen* cited the importance of the College to the town; the necessity of increasing the accommodations of the College; the fact that although the College authorities had given generously to bring the institution to its high standard, it was unable to build an addition without assistance from the people of Oxford. The *Citizen* reminded the readers that in giving to the College, they were giving to themselves, and that this was the first opportunity they had had in thirty years to subscribe funds for the benefit of the College. The *Citizen* proposed to endow a free boarding and tuition scholarship which should be perpetual, and with the money so contributed assist in building the needed addition. For weeks the *Citizen* pleaded for contributions from the townspeople. Dr. Walker offered to have the excavation dug and the stone basement put in at his own expense. A week later the drawings for the new wing were exhibited in the Oxford Bank. Dr. Walker offered the Board of the Public Schools the free use of two perpetual tuition scholarships, the benefits thereof to be enjoyed by worthy and promising graduates of the High School who were unable to defray the ex-



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pense of tuition in the regular college course. The beneficiaries were to be chosen by the President of the School Board, the Principal of the High School, and the President of the College.

In June, 1888, the *Oxford News* commenting on the Oxford Female College Commencement said in part: "The story of the College has been one of success, both gratifying and remarkable, ever since its origin, and in all parts of the country, yes even in pagan lands are the hundreds of women who have either graduated or received instruction within its walls. But the College of today, as we contemplate it, and that height of eminence which it occupies among similar institutions, is closely linked with the noble and untiring work of its present President, Dr. Faye Walker. As an educator, as a learned scholar, and a Christian gentleman, few men are more distinguished, and in the pursuit of his profession few have accomplished a nobler work. By diligence, patience, and integrity and uprightness in all things, Dr. Walker has brought the institution into an era of unprecedented prosperity. The capacity of the buildings has been taxed to their utmost, and today the work of enlarging the present inadequate accommodation is being pushed with all possible rapidity."

The work on this new wing had begun in April, 1888. By June, the new construction was up as far as the top of the second story. By December it was all but finished. The new wing was to the north. It contained a library, a scientific hall, calisthenics hall, two art halls, eighteen bedrooms, fifteen music rooms, and an hydraulic passenger elevator, which was in

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service thirteen hours per day. In January, 1889, the library room with its handsome wood carpet—for the flooring was laid in pattern—and new book cases was completed. The northeast corner of the wing flared into an octagonal tower which tapered into a sharp point above the fourth floor. Hence the song about "an ivy mantled building, with two towers that reach above the town." The building was now two-hundred feet by eighty-five feet deep, exclusive of porches and could accommodate about one hundred and forty boarding pupils besides the President's family, the teachers and servants.

The College was so much a "home" for its students that frequently those from a distance remained at the College during the Christmas vacations. It was in '88 that the *Collegian* in a burst of loyalty claimed that "so long as Christian parents seek the highest literary advantages for their daughters; so long as they prize the joint culture of soul and mind; so long will the best families of the land continue to patronize the famous old Oxford College for young ladies."

The following, taken from the December, 1888, issue of *Oxford Ladies Collegian*, illustrates how deeply religious the administrators and professors of Oxford Female College, Western Seminary, and Miami University were in the '80's:

"Tuesday evening, November 27, 1888, Professor and Mrs. Bishop gave a delightful Tea to President Warfield of Miami University, Dr. and Mrs. Faye Walker and Mrs. Morris of Oxford College for Young Ladies, and Miss Lelia McKee, Lady Principal of Western Female Seminary. It seemed eminently appropriate that the heads of the three great educational institutions located in Oxford, should meet by invitation at the home of Professor Bishop, who is the son

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and namesake of Robert H. Bishop, the first President of Miami University, whose fame is still green in all the churches.

At the close of an unusually pleasant social evening, Professor Bishop brought forth the family Bible and suggested that as the heads of the Colleges were all together in his home, it would be peculiarly fitting that they should spend a season in prayer, President Faye Walker, seated in the same old armed chair that was used by Dr. Bishop in the President's room at the University sixty years ago, led the devotions. After singing Ronse's version of the twenty-third Psalm, and reading a portion of the Scripture, they all knelt down together and prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon the instructors and students of the three institutions."

At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors held April 29, 1890, the name of The Oxford Female College was changed to "Oxford College." The Board also voted to have the charter amended so as to embrace a "College of Music," a "College of Decorative Art" and a "College of Medicine." While the College of Music did materialize, the other two did not.

The change of name of the College prompted the girls to compose and sing:

An Institution once there was  
Of learning and of knowledge.  
The sign upon its high brick front  
Said 'Oxford Female College.'  
The maidens there could not enjoy  
Their bread and milk and porridge,  
For graven on the forks and spoons  
Was 'Oxford Female College.'  
A strong east wind at last came by,  
A wind that blew from Norwich;  
It blew the Female off the sign  
That was upon the College.  
The maidens now can all enjoy  
Their bread and milk and porridge,  
There is no 'female' on the sign.  
It now is Oxford College.

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The new north wing had helped to lessen the congestion, but in May, 1889, the need arose for a hall to house the Music School and the Physical Education department. This hall was to be called "De Vore Hall" in honor of Miss R. Jennie De Vore, the Lady Principal, a strong and popular teacher. Miss De Vore herself undertook to raise the funds from private donations. It was proposed that a part of the College grounds be deeded to a Board of Trustees. Then upon the occupancy of the hall, the College was to pay annually an amount for its use which was to be eight per cent of the cost. The Board was to use the rental in the education of missionaries. But, like the early Synod of Presbyterians of Cincinnati, this scheme for a new Music Hall seems never to have gone beyond the "resolving" stage.

The cost per semester to daughters of ministers in active charge of a church was increased from \$62.50 to \$70.00 in 1891-'92.

When the chapel was built, the stage was at the west end of the room. In 1891 it was moved to the east end, and a small pipe organ was installed. Sometime between 1897 and 1901 the stage was moved back to the west end, and the organ was placed by the south wall.

In the spring of 1892 the graduates of the Institute and of the College were invited to come to the College to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the union of the Institute and the Oxford Female College, June 6-8. Dr. John W. Scott, the first president of both institutions, was invited. Dr. Walker graciously offered to send a personal escort for Dr.



Scott if he would consent to come. But Dr. Scott felt that the journey, and the excitement of an anniversary would be too great a strain on his limited strength. More than one hundred and fifty graduates sent acceptances, and one hundred and thirty-seven actually came.

Not being able to erect the new hall, the College in 1892-'93 rented an old frame house directly opposite the new wing of the College. This accommodated about a dozen girls with a teacher in charge. As we look back now, those quarters seem to have been pretty mean, but the occupants did not complain. Showers and other luxuries were not common in 1893.

Again in 1892 an effort was made to raise funds to build a hall for the School of Music. Students unanimously voted to tax themselves for every entertainment, the tax to go to the building fund. By the summer of 1892 about \$400 was in the bank for the proposed building. Again the project met with failure.

In 1894 another addition extended the four-storied west wing of the College so as to contain two classrooms, a number of sanitary toilets, and several bedrooms. However, the fourth floor was not entirely completed.

Evidently the College authorities thought nothing succeeded like the appearance of success, and so continued to expand, hoping to find a way out of a desperate situation. The financial affairs of the College became steadily more involved. The College by this time owed the First National Bank of Oxford so much that it was decidedly to the interests of the bank

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to keep the College open if it were ever to be reimbursed. The next maneuver was under the direction of Mr. Gordon T. Hughes, formerly of Hamilton, Ohio, and an associate of Mr. Fletcher Heath, president of the First National Bank of Oxford. Through his influence a corporation was organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey, the purpose of which was to consolidate all the assets and the liabilities of the College and put the claims in such a shape that time would be given to work out the tangled affairs.

The first meeting was held at the "Office of Oxford College," at the corner of Greene and Grand streets in Jersey City, New Jersey, on June 16, 1897. There were present Messrs. Edwin J. Maturin, East Orange, New Jersey; H. W. Meen, Jersey City; and Edward B. Hawkins of Brooklyn, New York, being all the incorporators and all the stockholders and all the persons named in the certificate of incorporation. These men at once proceeded to transfer their stock to the Oxford administrators, Dr. Walker, Mr. George Welliver, Mr. Caleb A. Shera and others.

Following these transfers, an election, by ballot, of Directors to serve one year resulted unanimously in the election of Dr. Faye Walker, Mr. George C. Welliver, Mr. Caleb A. Shera, Mr. Frank W. Whitaker and Mr. Thomas E. Shields.

At the first meeting of this new Board of Directors in Oxford, June 25, 1897, certain transfers of property were made by the Walker and Morris family to the Oxford College, namely the Power House, the Farm Property in Clinton County, the College Property, proper, and the Personal Property. The new

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corporation thereby acquired the property and accepted the mortgages thereon. The transfer of these properties was in consideration of the transfer of \$99,500 of the common stock and \$24,500 preferred stock of the Oxford College to Mrs. Lillie M. Walker.

In Dr. Walker's first annual report, dated June 3, 1898, to the Board of Trustees and stockholders of Oxford College in Jersey City, New Jersey, he reported that the enrollment of students was one hundred and fifty-three and that "there was bright prospect for a larger enrollment of students for the coming year." At this meeting the original Directors were re-elected. At a meeting of the Directors June 23, 1898, Dr. Walker was re-elected President for the coming year. The honorary degree of A.M. was conferred upon Mrs. Elizabeth Henderson Evans, '64, of Portsmouth, Ohio; Mrs. Maggie Lintner Gath, '74, of Hamilton, Ohio; and Mrs. Elizabeth Mathews M. Mullen, '52.

On February 25, 1899, at a meeting of the Board of Directors, Mr. William Tucker, having purchased one share of common stock, was made a Director to replace Mr. Robert M. Walker, resigned. The Board voted to confer the degree of Doctor of Music on Professor Carl Hoffman, head of the Music School, and the Ph. D. degree on Miss Fannie Ruth Robinson, the Lady Principal.

On May 31, 1899, the Board authorized the conferring of the A.M. degree on Ilo Hale, '98, for her post-graduate work. The President reported the enrollment to have been one hundred and forty-one for the year just closed, a decrease of twelve over the

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previous year; but again, being an optimist, he declared the prospects "very bright" for a larger attendance the coming year. He stressed the importance of completing the west wing of the College in accordance with demands of essential and modern conveniences such as other colleges enjoyed. The President reported to the Board that several members of the faculty had devised a plan to raise money enough to cancel the indebtedness of the College and also to provide endowment. The details of the plan were not given, but the originators of the plan hoped to present to the Board a large sum of money as a semi-centennial Christmas offering, as the College was marking its fiftieth milestone since its 1849 charter. The makers of this plan, noble and generous as it was, probably had more enthusiasm than experience. For the project evidently joined those for a Music Hall and Gymnasium and a School of Medicine. The President called the attention of the Board to the necessity of economizing in all matters in which economy was practicable and cited that in this interest the work had been so rearranged as to dispense with one teacher. He recommended that "Charlie the baker, being an unusually handy man," be retained during the summer vacation to make the necessary repairs.

According to the minutes of the stockholders held in Jersey City, New Jersey, June 14, 1899, the Directors and officers were re-elected for the year 1899-1900. The distribution of shares was:

Lillie M. Walker

846 shares of common

William Tucker, Sr.

50 shares of preferred

R. M. Walker

one share of common

one share of common



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G. C. Welliver	one share of common
C. A. Shera	148 shares of common
	200 shares of preferred
Faye Walker	one share of common
Fletcher Heath	one share of common
Thomas Shields	one share of common

On June 26, 1899, the Board authorized Dr. Walker, the President, to take a one page write-up in the *Herald and Presbyter* at a cost of thirty-five dollars. This is the second indication of alarm on the part of the President of the Board. The first was when the President stressed to the Board in the previous month the necessity of economizing.

This need for economizing no doubt curtailed plans for an elaborate celebration of the semi-centennial. However, Dr. Fannie Ruth Robinson, Dean of the College, wrote the following song, while Miss Laura Miller, head of the vocal department, composed the music to commemorate the occasion:

"Oh! rich the grace of springtime,  
With rev'rent, rhythmic tone  
The veins of earth are leaping  
In music all their own;  
But in the heart of girlhood  
More perfect rhythms rise,  
And swell and leap and revel  
In fullest harmonies."

Chorus

"Oh! Rose-time, Dew-time, Dream-time,  
Thy beauty and thy power  
Lie hid within the joyance  
Of every youthful hour."

"Oh! fair the clustered roses  
Upon the breast of June,  
But fairer lie the blossoms  
Which Hope has dropped for boon.  
And we who wear the roses,  
Wear deep within our eyes

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The glory and the sweetness  
Of Hope's own prophecies."

Chorus

"Oh! fresh the golden morning  
By Heaven's chrism blest,  
What dreaming and what doing,  
Before Night's royal rest!  
To keep the morning pureness,  
Lord give thy angels charge  
Through all the noon-day splendor  
And evening's marge."

Chorus

"Give Oxford happy harvests  
And let her future sing  
That old-time faithful sowing,  
Our own day's blossoming.  
Give Oxford three-fold blessing,  
The wide flung hope of youth,  
Strong womanhood's endeavor,  
And Age's finer truth."

Chorus

On April 18, 1900, a special meeting of the Board of Directors was called. For some reason not set forth, the meeting was held in the First National Bank, instead of at the College, which had been the customary place for Directors' meetings. Perhaps the nature of the principal item on the agenda accounted for the change. The first item of business was to elect the Reverend John H. Thomas, who had acquired one share of common stock, as a Director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. William Tucker, Sr. The next and all-important was the presentation and acceptance of the resignation of Dr. Walker as President of Oxford College. The resignation read:

To the Honorable Board of Trustees of Oxford College:  
Gentlemen:

After seventeen years of continuous service, I hereby tender to you my resignation as President of Oxford College, to take effect at the close of the present collegiate year.

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My reason for this act is the failing health of my wife. Her nervous system has been impaired by over-work and our physician has ordered a protracted period of rest.

I beg to express to you, individually and collectively, my personal appreciation of the uniform courtesy and consideration which you have shown me in the discharge of my official duties. I shall always feel a deep interest in the prosperity of the College over which I have presided for so many years.

With sentiments of high regard, I am,  
Yours very sincerely,  
Faye Walker

The Board then unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

It is with something of surprise and with much regret that we have received the resignation of the Reverend Faye Walker, D.D., as president of Oxford College, made necessary on account of the condition of Mrs. Walker's health. In accepting it, we desire to express our very high appreciation of Mr. Walker's qualifications for and the unusually successful service in this important office.

Graduated at Miami University and at McCormick Theological Seminary, he took the presidency of the College after it had been closed a year without a student and with but meager equipment.

Coming from a pastorate in which he was having gratifying success and large promise of advancement, he gave himself to the varied and delicate work of the presidency with such vigor and adaptation that the school grew like magic. It has over run the capacity of its buildings until it has been necessary to enlarge them several times to accommodate the students. The teaching force has been multiplied again and again. The course of study has been advanced to correspond with the increasing demands of education until his school is in rank with the most popular and prosperous of the generation.

Dr. Walker is a preacher of rare ability, a brilliant lecturer, and an admirable entertainer on any occasion, a man of achievement, a genial Christian gentleman, whose companionship is greatly sought and enjoyed.

We record also our high esteem of Mrs. Walker, the daughter

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of the second president. She was brought up within its walls and has been preceptress and teacher in it for the seventeen years she and her husband have been at its head. She has left a very precious impress of her educated skill and tastes, and of her noble womanly and motherly nature on hundreds of young ladies that have gone out from her care. It will be difficult to fill their places.

We deeply regret the necessity for the resignation. We bid them "good bye" with regret, but we bid them "God-Speed" in the pastorate to which they expect to go, and for which they are both so admirably adapted and qualified.

Resolved that the foregoing expression be put on the minutes of this Board and that a copy be furnished Dr. and Mrs. Walker.

Signed by C. A. Shera, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Mr. C. A. Shera and Mr. G. C. Welliver were then authorized to employ all teachers and employees for the coming year.

With the resignation of Mr. Welliver as Vice-President, the Reverend J. H. Thomas was elected to fill the vacancy.

In Dr. Walker's final annual report to the Board of Directors he spoke of the year as having been "one of great prosperity" with one hundred and forty-four students enrolled. He spoke of the faculty as remarkably efficient and took "just pride" in the fact that ten of them were Oxford College graduates. Again he recommended, as he had done the previous year, the completion of the fourth story of the west wing, but at the same time appreciating the necessity of "practicing the most rigid economy consistent with the welfare of the College," which he "would continue to love with unabating fervor." He recommended to the Board that the following honorary degrees be conferred: Master of Oratory on Emma



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Ostrander Whitney, Master of Arts on Irene Eastman, '95, and on Bertha Provine, '91; and Master of Science on Augusta Paddock. All except Irene Eastman were on the faculty at the time.

The "resignation" and the "resolutions" were a part of an agreement unofficially made between the Board and Dr. Walker. As a scholar, handsome, colorful, dignified, magnetic, dramatic and a generous-hearted president, he had made the College succeed scholastically but not financially. Too many mothers had appealed to him saying that they had beautiful and wonderfully intelligent daughters, but insufficient funds with which to educate them; that when they became the world's finest teachers, they would reimburse the College. His tender heart would reply: "Send them"—and that would be the last the College would ever hear of reimbursement—in most cases. (A few times the College had welcome surprises in after years.)

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THE College owed large and small amounts to many friends and many business concerns, besides the mortgages on every foot of ground and every article of equipment. The creditors were refusing further credit, and pressing their claims energetically. Dr. Walker had threatened assignment. Only if the College were kept open could the creditors be paid and only if they assumed the management of the College themselves.

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At the November 6, 1900, meeting of the Directors, the Board resolved to accept the offer of one Cyrus Noble to buy the company's farm, which had been known as the "College Farm," of four hundred and forty acres, more or less, in Clinton County, Ohio, at \$30 per acre.

Dr. Walker had always refused to sell this farm, great as the necessity was. The \$12,800 received from this sale was at once applied to the payment of the mortgages and interest thereon.

On December 10, 1900, the Board declared a dividend of two per cent on the preferred and common stock from October 10, 1900, to January 1, 1901, all stockholders having waived all rights to a dividend prior to October 10, 1900.

On April 30, 1901, Mr. Shera and Mr. Welliver as well as Mr. Charles H. Shera, were authorized to engage the faculty and all domestics for the year that would end June, 1902. Between the lines one could read an indication of another change in administration, for where was the President, Dr. John H. Thomas, who had been elected to that office on the resignation of Dr. Walker? Why was he not authorized to engage faculty and help? Was his administration to be for only one year?

Apparently the collegiate year of 1900-'01 was without color, or much vigor as far as the administration was concerned. The only recorded mention of a proposed change appears in the President's report to the Directors, in which Dr. Thomas said: "As I am about to lay down my office----." This report is not dated, but it must have been at the end of the college

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

year in June, 1901. As Dr. Thomas had had no training or experience for the work he undertook in the College, it is not surprising that he held office but one year.

During the year 1900-'01 available cash must have been scarce, for the number of stockholders increased from six to forty-six. The list included personal friends, bankers, lawyers, publishing houses, plumbers and servants. When a claim was presented, and cash was not on hand, the creditor would be temporarily quieted with stock, some as little as one-fourth share.

The Board of Directors organized June 29, 1901, with Miss Fannie Ruth Robinson as President and Mr. Caleb A. Shera as Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. George C. Welliver, Mr. Charles H. Shera and Mr. Caleb A. Shera were appointed as executive committee. That the administration of the College might maintain a more legal aspect, the Board resolved that Mr. Caleb A. Shera, Secretary of the corporation, be sworn to the faithful discharge of his duties. It further resolved that he give bond in the sum of \$5,000 with Mr. G. C. Welliver, Mr. C. H. Shera and Mr. William M. Shera as security for this faithful discharge of duty. Mr. Shera complied, and the oath and bond were filed with papers of the Corporation. Why this sudden requirement of Mr. Shera, who had so loyally and faithfully stood by the College for a year and more? There must have been some undercurrent, some stir in the wind of disturbing, if not dangerous force, for the Board saw fit in its July 13, 1901, meeting to go on record as resolving to maintain a principal office and place of business in and at the office of the Cor-

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poration Trust Company of New Jersey, 15 Exchange Place, Jersey City; to keep there the stock and transfer books, and the book containing the names of the stockholders, open to the inspection of all authorized to see the same; to appoint the Corporation Trust Company as the agent of the College Corporation against whom legal process against the College Corporation could be served within the State of New Jersey and also as the transfer agent of the stock of this Corporation; to authorize the Trust Company to apply for instruction to Gordon T. Hughes, Esq., (the counsel of the College Corporation) in all matters relating to legal questions pertaining to the Corporation, and to relieve the Trust Company of all responsibility when it had followed the instructions.

The Board of Directors, September 18, 1901, declared a dividend of three per cent on the preferred stock, payable the first of October and of April each year. They also outlined the duties of the president, who was to be chief executive in the College, and of the dean, to which position Miss Annie Laura Gorham, a woman of striking personality, was appointed.

The College affairs must have been running smoothly for there seems to have been no meeting of the Board of Directors between November 14, 1901, and March 11, 1902. In the November meeting the Board merely heard the views of several members of the faculty who advocated a change of course in the Oratory and Music departments, and they agreed to take the matter under advisement. On March 11, 1902, Mr. H. L. Morey of Hamilton, Ohio, resigned as a Director and Vice-President of the College. Mr.



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Allen Andrews, an attorney of Hamilton, was elected to fill the vacancy.

Although the president was "chief executive," some of the duties of the modern president continued to be held by the Trustees, such as the employment of the faculty and servants.

Evidently trouble was beginning to brew, if in fact it had ever ceased, for the minutes of the Board meeting of April 29, 1902, record that Morey, Andrews and Morey of Hamilton, were retained and employed as "legal advisers and counsel for Oxford College in any and all matters that may require legal service."

On May 7, 1902, the attorneys were instructed by the Board to bring suit against Miss Agnes H. Morris for the amount due the College for her board, lodging, art lessons, personal services to her, and the entertainment of her visitors from June 25, 1897, to August 1, 1900. Nothing more of the suit is recorded in the minutes until December 7, 1903, when the Treasurer was instructed by the Board to pay the costs and attorney fees in the civil action of Oxford College vs. Agnes H. Morris, lately tried and decided by the Court of Common Pleas of Butler County, amounting to \$90.37. This suit must have been brought in the first place to block some legal action on the part of Miss Morris and undoubtedly was compromised. However, a bill from Morey, Andrews and Morey for \$109.40 was allowed by the Board and \$60.00 retainer fee for legal services.

The pay roll of the College suggests that perhaps there was some relation between the College debts, the

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payment of a \$2,000 chattel mortgage note, and interest thereon, and the salaries of the faculty, which compared with today's salaries, were little more than gratuities on the one hand and on the other sincere effort by the Directors to get the College on an even keel. Of course, it is true that salaries were low at the turn of the century, but those at Oxford College were so low that something besides mere monetary remuneration must have existed, an invisible something to hold many of those fine women, women of ability, at their post for years on end. Perhaps, in part, that something was reflected in the President's report where she records that Miss Gorham, having completed in residence in Oxford College the post-graduate work required, received the A.M. degree, and that she (the President) refrained from asking for certain improvements, however badly needed, since an unexpectedly heavy burden had been laid on the Board recently.

This "heavy burden" must have referred to the law suit brought by Miss Agnes Morris and Mrs. Lillie Morris Walker vs. Oxford College et al in the U. S. Circuit Court at Cincinnati. This suit, the uncertainties of litigation and the additional expense incurred, made the Board feel it was unwise to declare, or pay, any dividends on either the preferred or common stock of the Company at the time. It also alarmed the lien holders—Mr. C. A. Shera et al—to the point of beginning proceedings to foreclose mortgages. To further the cause of the Board, Mr. Lawrence Maxwell, an attorney in Cincinnati, was engaged to assist Morey, Andrews and Morey in the suit

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brought by Mrs. Walker and her sister, Miss Morris.

At the same time Miss Lelia Calhoun, the successful solicitor of students for the College, was re-employed under the direction of the Board. Additional effort to secure students was made as the law suit had adversely affected the reputation of the College.

On November 19, 1902, Mr. J. A. Cole of the firm of Cabell and Freiberg, attorneys for Mrs. Walker and Miss Agnes Morris, met the College Directors in the office of their attorneys—Morey, Andrews and Morey—in Hamilton, Ohio.

On behalf of his clients, Mr. Cole proposed that a loan of any sum of money up to \$9,000 be made to Oxford College for a period of five years at six per cent, payable semi-annually. The money for the loan was to be furnished by Roland A. Crandall of Chicago, Illinois, and secured by a mortgage on the real estate of the corporation, subject to the Building Association mortgage, which was approximately \$8,000 (later referred to "as about \$7,800"). The money was to be used in paying the mortgage held by the Messrs. Shera et al, upon the property, now in the process of foreclosure and if necessary to pay off any dues to the Building Association which had not been discharged as they came due. The Board's reply to this proposition was to request a loan to the College, on the terms proposed, sufficient to pay off not only the second mortgage, but also the mortgage due the Building Association. But, if this request could not be granted, the Board resolved to accept the proposition as outlined by Mr. Cole and set December 20, 1902, as the deadline before pressing the foreclosure

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suit, hoping by that time the loan would be closed and the College put in a condition to pay off the claims. On December 20, 1902, Mr. Cabell, attorney for Mrs. Walker and Miss Agnes Morris, requested, through Morey, Andrews and Morey, the Messrs. Shera and Welliver to wait until January 1, 1903, before taking any further steps in the foreclosure suit. By that time his clients would have arrangements for negotiating a loan on the College property sufficient to pay off both mortgages. The request was granted. January first came and passed, but without word from Mrs. Walker, Miss Agnes Morris, or their attorney, Mr. Cabell, in regard to the loan they had proposed negotiating.

By May 28, 1903, Mrs. Walker and Miss Agnes Morris had lost their suit in the Federal Court where the Judge said it was amply proved that Mr. Shera et al had done all anyone could do to keep the College open and functioning and had saved it from collapsing. Thus affairs were at a standstill, for again, the committee, consisting of Messrs. C. A. Shera, G. C. Welliver, and Charles H. Shera, was authorized to engage the faculty and the help for the year. The executive committee was instructed to overhaul the College building and the heating apparatus as well as to provide necessary sewerage.

At this time — May 28, 1903 — Dr. Guy Potter Benton, President of Miami University, approached the College Directors relative to using the College during the summer as a dormitory for women attending the Miami summer term. This request was reluctantly refused: First, because of necessary repairs to



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be made during the summer; second, and all-important, because at the time the suit of Mrs. Walker and Miss Agnes Morris against the College was instituted, a vicious and groundless rumor was circulated in educational journals, and elsewhere, that the College was to cease as an educational institution and the property to be devoted to other purposes; that this rumor had been harmful to the College and necessitated additional expense to counteract it. Consequently, even the renting of the College for the summer might give some strength to the false rumor.

That the Board was making an honest effort to discharge the obligations of the College is evident by the fact the Treasurer was instructed December 7, 1903, to pay the interest due the Oxford Loan and Building Association on loans secured by mortgages amounting to about \$7,800 and thereafter to pay the interest falling due monthly. But by February 10, 1904, because of the expense of meeting the requirements of the State's Chief Fire Inspector, the monthly payments of dues to the Oxford Loan and Building Association had to be suspended until June, 1904, when interest for six months was paid. Further expense had been incurred by the settlement and payment to the attorneys, Mr. Lawrence Maxwell and the Messrs. Morey, Andrews and Morey, for legal services in the case of Walker vs. the College et al, and in the appointing of an administrator for the estate of Dr. Faye Walker.

To consolidate the interest of the Alumnae in Oxford College and the management, the Board of Directors resolved on April 12, 1904: First, that a Board

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of College Trustees be created which should consist of the Directors of the Corporation, and such members of the College Alumnae Association as the Directors might choose, not exceeding four, of which Board of Trustees the President of the Board of Directors should be President; second, that it should be the duty of the Board of College Trustees to meet annually during Commencement week and at other times as the Trustees themselves appoint; third, that all matters pertaining to the educational interests and scholastic affairs of the College should be referred to the Board of Trustees unless they were of such emergent character that the Directors should dispose of the same without delay; fourth, that the action and recommendation of the Board of Trustees in all educational and scholastic matters, when approved by the Board of Directors, should be binding upon the corporation. The following of the Alumnae Association were chosen:

Mrs. John B. Elam, Indianapolis, Indiana

Mrs. E. S. McKee, Cincinnati, Ohio

Miss Phoebe Waller, Maysville, Kentucky

Mrs. M. R. Montgomery, Springfield, Illinois

During the year 1902-'03, the College operated with a net profit of \$1,588.88 with one hundred and forty-five students enrolled. But there was a drop in the enrollment for 1903-'04, when there were only one hundred and thirty-four students. Consequently, it was not surprising the operating expenses ran a deficit of \$600.

In some way, not recorded in any minutes of the Board of Directors, by September 9, 1904, Miss Agnes H. Morris had raised sufficient funds to acquire the

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stock in Oxford College, or at least the controlling part, held by the Messrs. Caleb A. Shera, Charles H. Shera, and George C. Welliver. The first result was the resignation of the entire Board of Directors. These gentlemen had worked hard to keep the College running. Especially was this true of Mr. Caleb A. Shera, who labored for and worried about the College for seven years. As leader he bore the brunt of responsibility. It is gratifying to note that while Mr. Shera had not entered into the affairs of the College with the idea of making any profit, being a generous-hearted, public-spirited and civic-minded man, he suffered no financial loss. The next result was the election of the following to the Board of Directors: Miss Fannie Ruth Robinson, President; Mr. J. L. Kohl, an attorney of Cincinnati, Ohio; Mr. John C. Slayback, Hamilton, Ohio, Vice-President; Mr. John W. Fenton, Oxford; Miss Agnes Hope Morris, Secretary-Treasurer. As Mr. John W. Fenton declined to serve, his son, Mr. Harry Fenton, an attorney in Indianapolis, was elected in his place.

At the next meeting of the Board, September 12, 1904, Mr. Slayback resigned as a member of the Board of Directors and was immediately elected to the Board of Trustees. Mr. W. H. Stewart, who for years was superintendent of the village schools of Oxford, was elected to the Board of Directors as Vice-President to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Slayback. Mr. Stewart was also elected to be business and general financial manager of the College at a stipulated salary for one year. However, it was also decided that Miss Agnes H. Morris should serve with

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Mr. Stewart on a "Finance Committee," whose duties should be to pass on all expenditures.

On November 30, 1904, the Board of Directors took under consideration the reorganization of the College affairs and decided: First, that the New Jersey Corporation was an expensive one to keep up, because it was a corporation foreign to Ohio and because of license fees and taxes; second, to reorganize the College under the laws of Ohio; third, that the capital stock be reduced from \$125,000 to \$62,500 exchanging stock in the new company for stock in the old one, both common and preferred upon the same and like ratio; fourth, that there be a bond issue of some \$20,000 in order to take up the present mortgage indebtedness against the College, giving it a longer time to pay off and in smaller amounts; fifth, that the plan be presented to the stockholders for acceptance or rejection. The Board further resolved that a warrant be issued for \$119.59 to pay costs in the Federal Court case of Lillie M. Walker vs. Shera et al, it being decided that this matter was of material benefit to the whole College company.

On March 20, 1905, Miami, through its President, Dr. Guy Potter Benton, again requested the privilege of renting some rooms in the College, during the six weeks summer term for the "Normal Students." This time the College was happy to be able to comply.

The proposition of reorganizing the College under the laws of Ohio was not meeting with much success because of the opposition on the part of some stockholders, but it was left open for a possible change of attitude.



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The Oxford Loan and Building Association was pressing for the interest due and threatening foreclosure. As the financial report for the year up to March 20, 1905, showed a possible surplus of from \$800 to \$1000, the interest was paid. Again a plan was discussed to make a trust deed, securing a bond issue of \$20,000 for five to ten years at six per cent, payable annually.

Probably there was some internal dissention and pressure, for at this meeting, March 20, 1905, Miss Robinson tendered her resignation as President of the College, to take effect at the end of the college year in June. Though not a business woman, Miss Robinson was a woman of refinement and charm. She was at home on any subject and welcome in any group, a lovely, innately-cultured, widely-read and travelled woman whom the students and faculty not only greatly admired but loved. She had natural elegance and a gentle though firm personality, but no executive drive, and the College was in need of someone to initiate not only scholastic policies, but business ones as well. The Board passed resolutions regarding its "appreciation of her efforts, her interest and the good she had accomplished, extended best wishes and wished her God-speed."

By March 30, 1905, the arrangement for a \$20,000 mortgage bond issue had been made with the Queen City Savings Bank and Trust Company of Cincinnati as Trustee. The bonds were in denominations of \$100 each dated April 1, 1905, and bore six per cent interest, the interest payable semi-annually. The money from the sale of these bonds was applied,

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first, to payment of mortgage indebtedness on the Company's real estate held by the Oxford Loan and Building Association, which amounted to \$7,836.26; second, to the payment of a mortgage for which the decree of foreclosure had been entered in the Butler County Common Pleas Court, on the Company's property held by Mr. Charles H. Shera and Mr. George C. Welliver amounting to \$9,332.50. The balance was held by the Directors of the Company for such purposes as the affairs of the College might require. This meant the Queen City Savings Bank and Trust Company held a mortgage on all of the Company's real estate.

Because of the resignation in 1904 of Miss Lelia Calhoun, the field agent, and the "wholly ineffective work of her successor" but ninety-seven students were enrolled for the year 1904-'05. While gains were made in the number of students from Indiana and Illinois, Kentucky lagged woefully behind. Miss Calhoun, a Kentucky woman, had brought many girls from Kentucky. She knew how to match charm with charm. A brusque northerner did not understand the finesse of the game.

The annual meeting of the stockholders held in Jersey City, New Jersey, elected the following directors: Jane Sherzer, Agnes H. Morris, William H. Stewart, Harry A. Fenton, J. H. Kohl and Louis B. Dailey, a recent stockholder.

By September, 1905, Dr. Jane B. Sherzer, who had formerly belonged to the Oxford College faculty as a teacher of language from 1889 to 1892, and then as Lady Principal from 1892 to 1894, had accepted the

call to the presidency of Oxford College, although her friends assured her she "was boarding a sinking ship." Full of vigor, she enthusiastically took up her duties, and things began to change. She *was* the President of the College. She was a leader and she took the helm with a firm hand, not delegating the president's duties to any board, although she frequently had to get many of her ideas approved by the Board. But she saw to it they were approved, an easy matter as the Board was relieved to have someone take the initiative. Dr. Sherzer worked hard, and she worked everyone else hard. There was much wondering and guessing behind doors as to what change today or the next would bring forth.

When Dr. Sherzer claimed that she could secure for the College some worthy students if she had some scholarships to offer, five \$50 scholarships were put at her disposal. Furthermore, she and the Secretary (Miss Agnes H. Morris) were to use their discretion in contracting with students at reduced rates, especially daughters of ministers—the old original aim of the College suddenly reappearing. The Board also gave one \$50 scholarship to the Reverend Calvin D. Wilson to use as he deemed best, in grateful appreciation of a service he had tendered the College in a published article in *The Interior*.

Dr. Sherzer proposed, and the Board of Trustees in joint meeting quickly concurred, that the tuition for new students be increased to \$300 per year instead of the previous \$280. This increase was not to affect students already enrolled.

Another change occurred when it was mutually

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agreed that Mr. William H. Stewart's contract as Financial Agent of the Company be cancelled. Dr. Sherzer supplanted Mr. Stewart on the executive committee and in countersigning all checks drawn by Miss Morris.

Again the reorganization of the College Company was discussed. The object was to reorganize under the laws of the State of Ohio, as it was considered too expensive to handle a double organization—one in New Jersey and one in Ohio. Finally by April 23, 1906, through transfers of stock, the Oxford College Corporation, organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey, was dissolved and the Oxford College Company was organized under the laws of the State of Ohio. Certificates of stock in the Oxford College Company were issued as follows to:

Miss Agnes H. Morris one certificate for two hundred and forty-four and one-half shares of preferred stock

Dr. Sherzer one certificate for two and one-half shares of preferred stock

Mr. W. H. Stewart one certificate for one share of preferred stock

Miss Elizabeth Smith one certificate for one share of preferred stock

Miss Mary A. Morris one certificate for one share of preferred stock

Miss Agnes H. Morris one certificate for nine hundred and eighty-three and one-half shares of common stock

Dr. Sherzer one certificate for thirteen and three-fourths shares of common stock

Mr. W. H. Stewart one certificate for one share of common stock

Miss Mary A. Morris one certificate for one share of common stock

Miss Elizabeth Smith one certificate for one share of common stock

On June 7, 1906, a new corporation was organized under the laws of the State of Ohio, and a new charter



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was granted by the State. This time the corporation was not for profit and was to be known as "The Oxford College for Women." The location of this new organization was the same as for the Oxford College Company, and the purpose—to educate young women—was unchanged. Nothing was said regarding the missionary daughter.

The incorporators were: Agnes Hope Morris, Mary A. Morris, Emma L. Elam, W. H. Stewart and Jane Sherzer.

On July 7, 1906, in a meeting of the incorporators for the purpose of electing a Board of Trustees, it was resolved that the Board of Trustees consist of the five incorporators. Immediately the Trustees organized with Dr. Sherzer as President, Mr. Stewart as Vice-President, Miss Agnes H. Morris as Secretary and Treasurer. Miss Mary A. Morris resigned as a Trustee and Mr. D. D. Woodmansee, an attorney of Cincinnati, was elected to fill the vacancy on the Board.

By March 22, 1907, the northwest corner of the block on which the College stood was purchased for \$7,900. The purpose of this purchase was eventually to own the entire block and to clear it of nondescript buildings.

While this was in part long-range planning, a more important part of the plan occurred on January 29, 1907, when the Misses Agnes H. and Mary A. Morris, to perpetuate the memory of their father, the Reverend Robert Desha Morris, established the Robert Morris Endowment by transferring to The Oxford College for Women all their holdings in the former Oxford College Company. The agreement was that Miss

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Agnes Morris was to vote all the stock that she and Miss Mary had transferred, and in case of her death before that of Miss Mary Morris, then Miss Mary Morris was to have the power of the vote. All dividends declared on such stock were to be paid to Miss Agnes H. Morris, or in event of her death, to Miss Mary A. Morris. This, however, was modified by a supplemental agreement, entered into by Miss Agnes H. Morris and The Oxford College for Women, June 15, 1910, whereby: First, the voting power of the transferred stock was vested in The Oxford College for Women; second, if the College should cease, the stock transferred by the Misses Agnes H. and Mary A. Morris should revert to her or her heirs; third, that instead of dividends on stock being paid to Miss Agnes, she was to receive a salary of \$1,000 yearly, by monthly payments beginning June 15, 1910. These payments were to continue until the school became one not for profit; then The Oxford College for Women would pay her an annuity during her life of \$1,000 per year, payable monthly. When the annuity was secured, then the Oxford College Company was to be dissolved; fourth, that "the College proceed at once to procure all the outstanding stock of the Oxford College Company, either by purchase, or otherwise, in order that the Oxford College Company may be dissolved and The Oxford College for Women become a collegiate school for girls, in other words, an incorporated body not for profit, and an enterprise passing from private to public ownership." This agreement further provided that as Miss Agnes H. Morris was indebted to Robert Rusk in the sum of \$1,250

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and to Robert M. and Elizabeth Evans in the sum of \$1,500 with accrued interest, on which total indebtedness she had paid further the sum of \$447.88 in interest, all of which indebtedness represented the part purchase price agreed to be paid by her for the purchase of stock in the Oxford College Company and so transferred to The Oxford College for Women, the corporation assume and pay the indebtedness and interest accruing, as well as the interest she had paid so as "to leave her free and harmless from any liability thereon." It also provided that "Miss Agnes H. Morris should have a home at the College during her life, should she so desire it."

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Oxford College for Women, September 10, 1910, four trustees, Mrs. Emma L. Elam, Judge Elam Fisher, Mr. W. H. Stewart and Dr. Jane B. Sherzer were sworn in by Mr. E. E. Williams, an Oxford attorney. (Miss Agnes H. Morris, who was to be the fifth Trustee, was in Europe.) The By-Laws had stipulated five trustees. Dr. Sherzer was elected President of the Board; Mrs. Elam, Vice-President; Mr. Stewart, Secretary and Treasurer. Dr. Sherzer reported that the Oxford College Company had, by proper action of its Board of Directors, authorized the sale to The Oxford College for Women of all its property, real and personal, and that The Oxford College for Women had agreed to pay to the Oxford College Company \$23,550. The Oxford College for Women further agreed to assume and discharge all outstanding debts of the Oxford College Company, including the unpaid balance of the mortgage on the premises and unpaid taxes, and

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to assume all contracts of the Company. The President and Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Company and the same (being identical) for The Oxford College for Women signed the above agreement. At once the Board authorized a loan of \$15,000 to be obtained from the Dollar Savings and Loan Company of Hamilton, Ohio.

In addition to these legal matters, Dr. Sherzer was revolving in her mind the improvement of the College grounds. On the west side of the College stood a barn that had once sheltered the Morris and Walker horses and the elegant carriage used by Mrs. Morris and her daughters when they went out to take the air. Beneath this structure was a good cellar, used for storing winter vegetables and staples. With the sale of the carriage, the barn was a useless blot on the lawn. But the cellar was needed. A pergola built over the cellar would solve the problem. Dr. Sherzer so fired the student body with her own enthusiasm that the girls said "they ate the barn down and the pergola up" by sandwich sales. Thus it was that an attractive pergola, which also served as an open-air recitation room and which furnished splendid background for out-door plays and fetes, and which was decked out with lovely climbing roses, was the gift of the students in 1910-'11 at a cost of \$415.

By January 12, 1912, the College had completed negotiations for the remaining fourth of the block on which the College stood. (But it was not until the summer of 1913 that the last building was removed from the College yard, leaving the four acres of the entire block free except for the main building and the



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pergola.) This led to "Campus Day," when the students began further lawn improvements under the guidance of a landscape gardener, generously loaned by the National Cash Register Company.

Having been successful in "eating down the barn," the students, always encouraged by the fervent interest of the President, turned their minds to a recreation room, a long-felt need. A back porch on the west side of the College building was the one place that would lend itself for this purpose. How to make money was the topic of conversation. When students put their hearts into a venture, they find means to accomplish it. This time their efforts continued through 1911-'12, and produced the sum of \$237. Accordingly "back porch" was enclosed in glass, heated by steam, given a hard wood floor and a new name, "The Sun Parlor." The total cost was \$600.

On October 5, 1912, the Wilson Athletic Field was dedicated. The acquisition of this field was largely due to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Wilda Wilson Church, the professor of Public Speaking and Physical Education. It adjoined the lot on which West Cottage (formerly known as the Power House) stood. The field was acquired at a cost of \$500 in cash, plus donations of skilled labor.

Having provided for out-door sports and exercise, the students turned their attention toward the needs of winter time. Consequently, a drive for a new building was started. By November 1, 1912, *The Oxford Herald* reported that "more than \$2,400 had been raised by the students for the erection of a dormitory and gymnasium." Pledges undoubtedly ac-

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counted for the greater part of this sum. Sufficient funds to guarantee even a beginning of the building were not secured, and it, like the Music Hall and Gymnasium, dropped into oblivion.

About this time the By-Laws were amended to increase the number of Trustees from five to seven. One was to serve for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, one for five years, one for six years, and one for seven years. The incumbents were to continue to serve for the time for which they had been elected, while one new member was elected for six years and one for seven years. One trustee was to be elected each year after the annual meeting in January, 1913.

As the Alumnae were not faint-hearted, and were not dismayed by previous failures in raising funds for various causes, a new campaign for endowment was opened March 27, 1913, by Mrs. Emily Mollyneaux Hughes, daughter of Mr. Samuel Mollyneaux, who had been a supporter of the Oxford Female Institute and later the Oxford Female College, and had not only contributed money and his time, but had sent four daughters to the Oxford Female College. Although some of the Alumnae worked hard, and the classes made a great effort during 1914 to earn money through rummage sales, and by various other means, entire success eluded them. However, the project was not abandoned.

With an increase in enrollment, in faculty and in courses offered, more dormitory space was not only highly desirable, but necessary. A well-built modern residence, located on the northeast corner of Walnut

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Street and College Avenue, facing the College, and known as the George Welliver property, was available. With the idea of obtaining this house as a dormitory for seniors, the girls through a junior campaign, raised \$2,000 of its \$6,000 cost. The records show that it was conveyed to the College August 30, 1913. The President's office and living quarters were established there and a few seniors occupied the second and third floors. But it was never used exclusively for seniors although it was called "Senior House."

The President and the "Senior House" girls were happy there for five weeks, when on October 20, 1913, an over-heated furnace, and probably a defective flue, caused a bad interior fire. The occupants had to be crowded into the main building until their new home could be restored and alterations made which would convert a private residence into one more suitable for a dormitory. All furniture was saved, though much of it needed refinishing. With insurance the loss amounted only to about \$1000. The work was begun at once with the hope that it might be completed early in the year or by February at the latest.

In 1914, the Domestic Science department was moved into West Cottage, which had been remodelled for this purpose.

In the spring of 1915, the College was placed on the accredited list of Ohio colleges. Therefore, the graduates were eligible for life certificates to teach in Ohio and also in West Virginia. This was a heartening advance.

In June, 1915, the Alumnae voted to raise \$25,000

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of the \$200,000 required as an endowment by this time. The Oxford branch pledged to raise \$1,000 of the \$25,000. The branch already had \$700 made by markets, rummage sales, and picture shows. Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, president of the General Alumnae Association, appointed Mrs. Emily Hughes, Miss Daisy McCullough, Miss Jennie Richey, Mrs. Mary Thompson Hughes, all of Oxford, Miss Marion Boswell of Louisville, Kentucky, Miss Bess Redhed of Tolono, Illinois, and Mrs. Orison Hayes of Indianapolis as a committee to work out a scheme to realize the \$200,000. At the first meeting of the committee it was agreed they should organize. Accordingly a constitution, patterned after the Endowment Committee of the University of Cincinnati, was drawn. The organization was to be known as the Alumnae Endowment Fund Committee of The Oxford College for Women. The chairman was Mrs. Mary Thompson Hughes; the secretary, Mrs. Emily M. Hughes and the treasurer, Miss Jennie Richey. The object of this formal organization "was to invite the trust of other alumnae." By zealous work this committee in time realized its goal. But unfortunately other branches did not succeed so well, and the entire sum of \$200,000 was not forthcoming.

Although the Alumnae Association had a big project on its hands, the President of the College, Dr. Sherzer, sent a letter to all Oxford College girls the first of July, 1915, soliciting contributions for the building of a swimming pool next to the Wilson Athletic field. Each girl was urged to give at least one dollar. The Trustees guaranteed \$2,000 of the \$9,000



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it was estimated the building would cost. This also went the way of previous attempts to raise money for new buildings. There was a lack of faith somewhere along the line. Perhaps Dr. Sherzer sensed this for she felt constrained to make the following report:

“Accomplishments of the past nine years:”

1. \$28,000 old mortgages cancelled
2. \$25,000 spent on repairs and improvements
3. \$100,000 gifts of stock secured
4. \$15,000 expended to purchase remaining stock
5. \$7,900 land for campus
6. \$415 Pergola, gift of students
7. \$500 Athletic Field, gift of Alumnae and friends
8. \$600 Sun Parlor, gift of students
9. \$6,000 Senior House, \$2,000 of which was gift of students and friends
10. Faculty and College strengthened
11. All salaries increased, in a few cases doubled
12. Preparatory department abandoned
13. Domestic Science introduced, September, 1908
14. Enrollment of boarding students doubled
15. Freshman class, 1913-'14, numbers eighty
16. Chartered, non-sectarian, not for profit, under the laws of Ohio, and held in trust by a body of self-perpetuating trustees: Judge Elam Fisher, J. Gilbert Welsh (Cashier of Farmer's State Bank, Oxford), Mrs. John B. Elam, Miss Agnes H. Morris and Dr. Jane B. Sherzer
17. Entire indebtedness \$20,000, incurred for stock, land, and Senior Cottage, being paid off \$200 per month

Sometime in the first half of 1916, the College became Caroline Scott Harrison conscious. It awakened to the fact that she had been its most distinguished alumna, the wife of a President of the United States. The credit for this awakening went to Mrs. Mary Thompson Hughes, the chairman of the Endowment Fund organization. Accordingly, *The Oxford Press*, a College publication, proclaimed at length

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the merits of Caroline Scott Harrison. Students were steeped in her life story. A local chapter of the D. A. R., of which she had been the first President General, the Caroline Scott chapter, was established in the College, October 20, 1916. Soon women from the village and from Western College joined the chapter, which has remained strong and active to the present time. There was already a Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter in Indianapolis, so it was necessary to name the College chapter, "The Caroline Scott." This was appropriate since Oxford was her birthplace and the College her girlhood home. By a happy coincidence the date of the organization of this chapter was the sixty-third anniversary of her wedding day.

Immediately a movement was started to memorialize her connection with the D. A. R. and the College, the proposal being first presented by Mrs. Mary Thompson Hughes, '02, at the Ohio Conference of D. A. R. meeting in Cincinnati, October 31 to November 12, 1916. It was believed that some building for a dormitory purpose at Oxford College would be a most fitting tribute to Mrs. Harrison. The Conference voted unanimously to create a Caroline Scott Harrison Memorial Association and appointed Mrs. Austin Brant as chairman. Before the association was fairly launched, World War I interrupted the plans and diverted attention to more pressing matters.

The need of sufficient endowment to satisfy the requirements of accrediting agencies was becoming more and more urgent. The various efforts of the Alumnae to raise enough money had not been successful; consequently, some other scheme must be tried.

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So it was on August 1, 1916, that the Board of Trustees retained The Fiscal Service Corporation of Chicago to inaugurate an intensive campaign for endowment in the community and among the Alumnae. For the initial unit, it was estimated two months would be required. It was earnestly hoped that the quota of Butler County amounting to \$150,000 would be attained by that time. The fact that this was the first public appeal by the College to invest in the training for leadership of young women was considered a distinct advantage. There was the added argument that the College had no current deficit.

This proved to be an expensive venture that did not bring forth the desired results.

No doubt the President felt that efforts to raise the all-important and life-saving endowment were hopeless. She accordingly began to plan the next maneuver.

In chapel on the morning of November 24, 1916, the President announced that the College building thereafter would be known as "Morris Hall" in honor of Dr. Robert Desha Morris and his two daughters, the Misses Agnes and Mary Morris. If that were a surprise, it was nothing as compared to the next announcement: "That the Trustees of both Oxford College and Western College had agreed upon a merger of the two institutions"! But she added, "that just as Rome was not built in a day, the merger could not take place at once; that it would take at least nine months before the charter could be secured and two or maybe five years before any change would be made in the running order of the two colleges." This

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last statement showed the loophole; showed that no papers had been signed; that only talk had taken place and that this announcement, with a similar one by President Boyd at Western at the same time, was a "trial balloon," a "sounding board," a way to determine the reaction of the alumnae of both colleges. There was a mixture of feelings at Oxford College. Some felt the large endowment, buildings and grounds that Western would contribute were factors for which to be grateful. Others felt that the bottom had dropped out and that what they had loved and cherished would be engulfed and soon lost for all time. Beautiful grounds did not blind them or stultify their discriminating faculties. They argued that while Western was a fine, even a splendid college, the two institutions were different and that there was a place for each in the scheme of affairs but that place was not on one campus. Dr. Sherzer carefully coached certain students to support the proposed merger and to talk enthusiastically to those in grave doubt of the desirability of the proposition. Perhaps these talks converted a few. But a dreadful pall hung over the student body at large and over the faculty.

The following Saturday evening, Western students serenaded the College. To their surprise, they were invited in to have coffee, and the Oxford College girls, though sick at heart, nevertheless played well the role of hostess, hid the aches and doubts in their hearts and met the serenaders half way but felt no reassurance of any liking of the scheme. On December 9, 1916, the Western sophomores entertained the Oxford College sophomores at a dance in their gymnasium.



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The juniors promptly entertained the Oxford College juniors with a sight-seeing trip about Western, followed by dancing and singing. There was entertaining back and forth by various classes—an attempt at establishing cordial relations between the two student bodies—but for the most part there remained the unseen ache in the hearts of the Oxford College girls.

Dr. W. W. Boyd, Western's President, entertained the local Oxford College Alumnae at a beautifully appointed luncheon. But all this entertaining was a gesture, extraneous to a merger, as subsequent events proved.

The alumnae of both colleges reacted immediately. There was violent opposition as well as some lukewarm approval in each organization. Protests from Oxford College Alumnae Branches and individuals poured in. On January 6, 1917, the executive board of the Chicago Branch of Oxford College Alumnae formally passed resolutions of protest against the merger with Western College. The basis of the protest was that the President before the Branch, November 11, 1916, had given the impression that the College was "in good condition financially"; that the demand for Oxford College graduates to fill positions as teachers was greater than ever before; that the faculty was "an excellent one"; that the Branch had been informed that "the President and Board of Trustees on November 9, 1916, had approved the intention of the Ohio D. A. R. to make Oxford College a memorial to Mrs. Caroline Scott Harrison and to start a national movement with that in view." The Branch believed there was "a place for the small woman's college in

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the world's scheme of education"; that Oxford College as the oldest woman's college in the State of Ohio had lived a life of usefulness for eighty-six years; that Oxford College was a "sacred" and public trust and not a private property.

The Oxford College Board of Trustees met in the evening April 12, 1917, and gave long, serious and judicious consideration to the proposed merger. At chapel the following morning, April 13, 1917, the President, solemn, dejected and ashen, announced in colorless tones that the Oxford College Trustees had voted against the merger. The students shouted with joy and sang at the top of their lungs. The suspense and tension of the previous five months were the calm before the storm of their ebullient spirits. From that day forth the President was a different person from the enthusiastic leader she had been. She had worked steadily with the weight of her influence to bring about this merger with Western only to meet complete frustration.

Since the College was to continue, the summer of 1917 saw some long-needed improvements in the main building. Hard wood floors were laid on second, third and fourth floors. One or two clothes closets were built in every room to eliminate the cumbersome presses which stood in the halls and presented fire hazards. Small rooms were joined to make larger ones. New carpets and furniture were purchased. All told the expense amounted to about \$6,000.

To house the students and faculty more comfortably, the College, at a cost of \$6,000 acquired during this summer (1917) the residence on the northeast

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corner of College Avenue and Collins Street, known as the John Fenton home. Although it was occupied by some fifteen to eighteen students and a member of the faculty in September, 1917, the property was not conveyed to the College until September 20, 1919. Undoubtedly the system of mortgage or loan had been used again by the optimistic Trustees, who were turning every stone to maintain the College at its high standard in the educational world.

But they became convinced that in order to do this, a change in the administration was absolutely necessary. Consequently Dr. Sherzer, while given due credit for all her accomplishments, was permitted to resign. She left the College the Tuesday before Thanksgiving in 1917, having occupied the president's chair a little over eleven years.

Naturally this change created another commotion in the faculty and student body, but it was happily quieted and satisfied by the appointment of a popular and able professor, Dr. Eleanor N. Adams, of the English department, as chairman of the faculty. Dr. Adams was not only a scholar and an enthusiastic professor, she was also blessed with a charming personality, a sense of humor, and more youthful years than her predecessor. She was easily adaptable. She had the vigor of a young woman and the vision that comes from study, travel and a home background of culture. Early in 1918, Dr. Adams was made Acting-President and occupied the President's quarters in "Senior House." By late spring she was elected President.

Larger quarters for the expanding Home Econom-

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ics course were in great demand. To increase its efficiency the north half of West Cottage was built in the spring and summer of 1918. The addition contained a large room for all handwork on the first floor, a chemistry laboratory on the second, bedrooms for students and one teacher on the third floor. The basement was fitted out as a laundry.

In early May, 1919, an intensive campaign for adequate endowment was again opened. Almost immediately \$1,930 was pledged by students and the faculty of the college year, 1918-'19.

On October 2, 1919, Dr. Adams announced that through the influence of Mrs. Edward Lansing Harris, Ohio State Regent and a trustee of the College, the furnishings of the Hostess House at Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, had been given by the D. A. R. of Ohio to Oxford College. The Hostess House had been built by the D. A. R. during World War I. The gift was to be kept intact and used in a new dormitory which the Daughters hoped to build as a memorial to Caroline Scott Harrison, Oxford College's "First Lady."

In the meantime, as bad news travels fast and good news proceeds with less speed, the Trustees considered it wise to attempt to repair at least some of the damages done by the merger-with-Western talk. Accordingly, they sent a letter October 19, 1919, to Alumnae Associations definitely saying the merger would not take place while they were members of the Board of Trustees without the unanimous written consent of all the Alumnae Associations.

Thus encouraged, the Daughters at the Ohio Con-



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ference in March, 1920, resolved to ask that the Memorial be recognized as national. In April, 1920, the twenty-ninth Continental Congress of D. A. R. endorsed the move. At the thirtieth Continental Congress, Mrs. Austin Brant was authorized to solicit funds from chapters in all states.

While the D. A. R. was collecting funds, the College was acquiring property adjoining the lot on which the memorial building would stand. On May 19, 1924, the second lot from the southeast corner of High Street and College Avenue was purchased for \$11,500. The following March 14, 1925, the property just south of this and across the alley, known as the Gillard residence, was secured for about \$8,500. The College now owned all the property across from the main building except the southeast corner on High Street and College Avenue. That was supposed to be offered to the College to bid on when it would be put up for sale. But the first the College knew of its sale was when the stakes were driven by the Standard Oil Company.

Once more a drive for endowment, now the final one, was organized in November, 1924, this time under the guidance of a New York firm. It was planned and started on rather a grand scale, but it was not successful, and in 1925 the offices for the endowment were moved to Cincinnati, where the firm worked half time for the College and half time for Howard University. Much good money was spent in the hope of securing a great deal more. But the expenses outstripped the receipts.

In the meantime the Alumnae were seeking ways

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to unite the Association and the Trustees. At the annual meeting in June, 1925, it was voted that an Alumnae Council of nine members be selected by popular ballot. Each member of the Council was to be a representative of the Alumnae from one of the nine geographical districts. The purpose was to form a medium between the Alumnae as a whole and the Board of Trustees. One of the nine would probably represent the Council on the Board.

Mrs. Brant served as chairman and treasurer of the Caroline Scott Harrison Memorial for ten years. The last letter she wrote prior to her untimely death in January, 1926, was in behalf of her work. Mrs. John Lippelman, daughter of Mrs. H. H. Peck, '65, was appointed to succeed Mrs. Brant as chairman, and Mrs. Brant's daughter, Mrs. Martin Schmidt, was made treasurer.

Mrs. Brant's unflagging and tireless interest had brought the fund to such a figure that it was considered safe to make plans for the laying of the cornerstone. For over a year the Ohio Daughters had planned to make the laying of the cornerstone a part of the State Conference to be held in Cincinnati in late March, 1926. This plan had the endorsement of Mrs. Brant, whose death made the Daughters feel that each stone of the building would be a memorial to her, as well as to Caroline Scott Harrison. Mrs. Lippelman, who had taken up Mrs. Brant's work, presided at the ceremony.

On Friday afternoon at five o'clock, March 26, 1926, at a signal from the bugle, the academic procession left Morris Hall and moved in double line to

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the south entrance of Senior House, where a platform had been erected. Heading the procession were seven Pennsylvania girls, who acted as a special group in attendance on Mrs. Anthony Wayne Cook, President General of the D. A. R., a Pennsylvania woman. The remaining students dressed in white, with fluttering ribbons of gold and blue, followed and opened ranks to form an avenue through which passed Mrs. Cook, other distinguished guests, trustees, faculty, alumnae, and D. A. R. invited guests.

The program was:

America.....	The Assemblage
Salute to the Flag	
Invocation.....	Mrs. Rhett Goode, Chaplain General D. A. R.
Welcome.....	Thomas L. King, Mayor of Oxford
Presentation of the Memorial.....	Mrs. John Lippelman, National Chairman of the Caroline Scott Harrison Memorial
Acceptance of the Memorial.....	Dr. Eleanor N. Adams, President of Oxford College
Alma Mater Song.....	Oxford College Choral Society
Address.....	Mrs. Anthony Wayne Cook, President General D. A. R.
The Star Spangled Banner.....	The Assemblage
Benediction.....	The Reverend G. L. Pennock, Professor of Classics and Bible Literature, Oxford College

This ceremony was to mark a milestone in the history of the College.

The Woman's Club of Oxford gave \$100 to the Memorial Building in recognition of the courtesies extended to the club by the College.

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The new dormitory was to be entirely fireproof, built of brick in the Georgian Colonial style with three stories and a basement. The upper floors were to be used as dormitories for about sixty students. The first floor was to have a living room, offices, committee rooms. In the basement in addition to a storage room, there was to be a large recreation room with a fireplace. The dormitory rooms were to be furnished in fumed oak and reed furniture donated by the D. A. R.

Senior House was to be moved to the rear of the lot on which it stood and turned to face on Walnut Street. The old "Scott House" was to be moved to a site on the lot opposite Morris Hall and to be used as a D. A. R. Chapter house and museum for relics from the Scott home. It was an ambitious bit of planning even for a flourishing institution, to say nothing of one deeply involved financially.

In April, 1927, the Committee for the Memorial Dormitory secured permission from the National Board of Management to begin construction of the dormitory before fall of that year, providing a guarantee of the difference between the money already collected and the total sum necessary for the construction be secured. Mrs. Robert McKee, daughter of Mrs. Caroline Scott Harrison, although she had generously contributed to the Endowment and the Memorial Dormitory Fund, gave an additional \$500, one half in the name of her son, Benjamin Harrison McKee, the other in the name of her daughter, Mrs. Reisinger.

The committee requested the College to underwrite the necessary amount, about \$35,000. This was



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totally out of the question. The finances would in no way permit it. Hence, not a single spade of earth was turned, nor a brick laid.

Still hoping that some miracle would be performed, that this crisis would pass, the College opened in the fall of 1927, but as it started, with a "crushing debt." In January, 1928, the President, Dr. Eleanor N. Adams, was granted a leave of absence. The Reverend Dr. Gilbert Lee Pennock of the faculty was appointed Acting President for the rest of the collegiate year. The situation was so nearly hopeless, that one semester was too short a time for Dr. Pennock to solve the intricate problem of the College finances or to demonstrate what he could do under halfway normal times.

Operating with a loss of \$23,000 for the year, the College, by June 1928, had a total indebtedness of about \$65,000. The purchase of real estate and the frantic efforts to raise sufficient endowment, accounted for a large part of the indebtedness. The total enrollment was but one hundred and thirty. Not being able to raise \$250,000 endowment, the College could not be included in the accredited lists of colleges. Every other requirement was met. Absence from that all-important list meant that Oxford College credits were rapidly becoming non-transferable; that to be fair to its students and Alumnae, to be honorable, there was just one thing to do—CLOSE!—but to try desperately hard to find a way to preserve the old College's name and traditions; to find a way to keep the College functioning for the education of young women.

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When the last lingering student left that day in June, 1928, she went without knowing that the College doors would never again swing open, for no one could bear to tell her. For nearly a year the gaunt walls, the darkened rooms, the echoing corridors, and the lifeless windows were like those in a haunted house.

"For the laugh had fled from porch and lawn,

\* \* \*

And the twitter of girls on the stairs was gone,

And the grand piano was still."

While no doubt many Oxonians knew the College was in a maelstrom, yet the town was shocked when it became known that the College had really closed forever, the College that had miraculously weathered so many previous storms. Small wonder that one Miamian said: "When the College closed, something beautiful went out of Oxford that can never be replaced."

Sponsored, founded and sustained by genuine scholars, Oxford College had been able to render a great service to the cause of education. In the early days the administrators and faculty, as elsewhere, received salaries that were little better than gratuities. (The administrator's salary at one time was \$300 a year; a professor's, \$150, and the entire budget for the College was \$1,500.) Truly theirs had been a labor of love. This same devotion was manifested in the determined desire of the Board of Trustees to preserve Oxford College in some form or another.

The way was found. The parent took back her child, for Oxford College was a child of Miami, historically speaking. Therefore, it seemed logical and fitting for Miami to cast a protecting arm about it

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when the crisis came. And so it was that on December 8, 1928, the final papers were signed and a so-called merger between Miami University and Oxford College was formally effected. Miami acquired all of the property and assumed the debts amounting to about \$65,000. By incorporating the Alumnae into the Miami Alumni Association and thus preserving the name and traditions, the Oxford College Alumnae were not to be cast off. The function of the old College was to continue, and still does, if in a restricted way, through its yearly scholarships. So long as worthy girls receive this aid, Oxford College can not die; the name of a pioneer woman's college west of the Alleghenies can not be lost.



## II. LOYAL FRIENDS AND PRESIDENTS

**I**F certain churchmen were "the wheelhorses of the moving chariot of salvation," so also were the supporters and founders of the early Oxford College for the chariot of education.

### *Peter Sutton*

Peter Sutton, born on June 3, 1802, in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, was a carpenter at sixteen; a soldier of fortune in 1823 when he went down the Ohio river to Cincinnati, and then, since there were no public conveyances, walked to Eaton, Ohio; a married man in 1824 and a resident of Oxford soon afterwards. He was recognized at once as a man of sterling qualities, capable of filling the highest offices of trust. He was Recorder for the newly-incorporated village of Oxford in 1832; Justice of the Peace for thirty-one years, and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Miami University for a like number of years; President (mayor) of the corporation from 1849 to 1856; Township Clerk and Treasurer; Presi-



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dent of the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Female Institute at the time of its inception, and one of the original Board of Directors of the Cemetery Association in 1855. Squire Sutton was one of the leading early members of the Universalist Church organized in 1839. In 1848, he, with several others, organized in Oxford the society known as The Free Soil Party. He was a member of the original Temperance Society known as The Washington Society.

Mr. Sutton led a life filled with care and responsibility. Once a man of much means, but unable to say "no" to anyone seeking his aid, he lost nearly all of his property. He was held in great respect and devotion by the people of Oxford, some of whom named their children for him. He died November 8, 1890.

### *The Reverend Henry Maltby*

Born in Paris, New York, on October 5, 1806, Henry Maltby grew up on a farm; attended Hanover College; married and taught school; went to Kentucky for his health; organized and incorporated a boarding school in Flemingsburg called the Collegiate Institute; studied for the ministry while teaching; preached in Louisville, Kentucky, and Cincinnati, Ohio; was pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Oxford from 1848-'50 at which time he helped in the founding of the Institute; was Stated Supply of the First and Third Presbyterian churches in Oxford, 1850-'51, and pastor elect in the Third church, 1855-'56. He was in the group that helped to raise money for the Oxford Female College building on the land

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east of the village donated by Ebenezer Lane.

### *The Reverend William Swart Rogers*

The Reverend William Swart Rogers was born in Greenfield, Ohio, on January 14, 1809; was graduated from Miami in June, 1835; sailed for India November 17, 1835, in a missionary party of fourteen; was ordained by the Presbytery of Lodiana in October, 1837; returned to America in 1843 because of his wife's ill health. Thereafter, they lived in Oxford. A missionary first and last, he was the agent of the Board of Foreign Missions, 1844 to 1854. From 1855 to 1863 he was the untiring agent of the Oxford Female College. He served successively the churches of Camden, Harmony, College Corner, and Shelby, Ohio. He was a frequent contributor to secular and religious papers until his death August 20, 1873.

The last survivor of the missionary party to India said of Mr. Rogers: "The Reverend William S. Rogers was noble in his aspirations, an ardent Christian gentleman, a faithful missionary." Others testified to his "kindness, goodness, social affability, courteousness, a gentleman at home in any circle." After his death a fellow townsman declared him "a good man, if not the best that ever walked the streets of Oxford," and another claimed, "his very presence was a benediction." So deeply religious and good was Mr. Rogers that even the ungodly were constrained to recognize him as one of the excellent of the earth. His two daughters, Adelaide and Julia A., were graduated at the O. F. C. in 1856. The family home was in the charming, picturesque little white cottage on High

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Street, opposite the Miami Campus, which is now Miami's Guest House.

### *John Ferguson*

Mr. John Ferguson, a Scotsman, was born on April 8, 1810, in Campbelltown, Argyleshire. He was a tinner by trade. Coming to America in 1832, he continued his trade for a time in Cincinnati and then came to Oxford, where he eventually opened a store for "General Commercial Facilities." By improving his store, and keeping abreast the times, he successfully carried on his business until 1880 when he retired. He was a Trustee of the First Presbyterian church, and also of the Oxford Female College—a staunch and faithful supporter of both until his death August 26, 1887. His son, Mr. Bruce Ferguson, a banker and a churchman, followed in his father's footsteps and was a Trustee of The Oxford College for Women when it closed in 1928 and merged with Miami University.

### *Samuel R. Mollyneaux*

Mr. Samuel R. Mollyneaux, of French Huguenot descent, born in County Antrim, Ireland, in 1818, came to Oxford in 1836. At a collector's sale he bought lots, and on one of these he eventually built, about 1852, the "Coffee-Mill House," whose more dignified name now is "The Manse," but whose appearance prompted the nickname.

Samuel R. Mollyneaux was not only a "man of property," he was also a successful merchant, who was prepared to fulfill the wants of the villagers from Oriental silks, "real Stella Shawls" and other finery,

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including bonnets (from 25c to \$3.00!) and ribbons to "specially ordered cradles, mowing scythes, and Baltimore Shad and salt by the barrel" — a department store on a small scale. Why go elsewhere, especially when his stock "came directly from Philadelphia"? Most probably the citizens did not, for a trip to Cincinnati and back was a real journey in those days. He was a miller, a civic-minded man interested in turnpikes and railroads, even to the extent of endangering his own financial status, and in the town's welfare as he served as the President (mayor) for a time. He was interested in man's religious life and served his church—the Old School Presbyterian—as an elder. Another interest was "female education." This was of such paramount importance to him that he readily associated himself closely with the founding of the Oxford Female College and contributed to its support more than \$1000, for did he not have four daughters to educate? His son could be provided for in Miami just across the street.

It was fitting that in later years his gifted daughter, Emily Mollyneaux Hughes, should be President of the Oxford College Alumnae Association; that her son, Raymond Mollyneaux Hughes, who became President of Miami University, should be another link in the chain between Oxford College and Miami University.

If the Manse was "built like a coffee grinder, but the crank inside" as an occupant in the late '90's said, it is certain that the first "crank" was not its builder, a generous, civic-minded man of the "old school."



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

### *Ebenezer Lane*

It was Ebenezer Lane, a public-spirited citizen, a friend of liberal education, who gave thirty-four acres of his land as a site for the Oxford Female College. Although this was a Presbyterian sponsored project and Mr. Lane a Baptist, he was free from all narrow sectarian bias. He was one of the founders of the Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati. Mr. Lane died in Oxford in the spring of 1870.

### *Alexander Guy, M. D.*

For perhaps more than half a century, Oxford knew and highly respected a tall, lean man slightly stooped, dressed in a green, once black, cape and a stove-pipe hat of ancient vintage, Dr. Alexander Guy.<sup>1</sup> He was a picture of ancient elegance and respectability. So frugal that he denied his own wants, he was generosity itself to one in need. A tale of a poor widow, of anyone destitute, or of any worthy cause needing help, touched his heart and his generosity. No man in Oxford gave more liberally. He was trained for the ministry at Princeton. Although he filled the pulpit in a Cincinnati church for a time, and in the First Presbyterian church in Middletown, Ohio, from 1833 to 1835, he was, for some unknown reason, never ordained or installed as a pastor. For thirty-seven years he was an elder of the First Presbyterian church in Oxford. He was a commissioner to the Old School General Assembly in 1857 and a member of its important committee on bills and overtures.

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1. "History of the First Presbyterian Church in Oxford"; "Old Oxford Houses."

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Married to the wealthy Susan Wade of Cincinnati, he may have felt that looking after the investments of her fortune and performing the duties of a regular pastor were not congruous. However, there is no record, or rumor, of any business deal that was not entirely honorable.

Interested in the cause of temperance, he bought and gave to the Temperance Society in Oxford the building now occupied by the Episcopal church. To Dr. Guy the Presbyterian church is largely indebted for owning the Manse, which holds his theological library. He stinted himself by buying stale bread, cheese parings, and things that other people would throw away, but he gave abundantly to missions and to the cause of education. To the Oxford Female College alone he gave from time to time a sum that totalled \$15,000.

One did not trifle with Dr. Alexander Guy. Though his expression was stern, yet it encouraged confidence and engendered marked respect. In his last years, while his mind worked more slowly, it worked surely and arrived at sound conclusions. His advice and judgment were highly valued. It seemed appropriate that his life span should close on Thanksgiving Day in 1892.

### *The Reverend John M. Worrall, D.D.*

The Reverend John Milton Worrall, Hoosier born, received his Bachelor's, Master's and D.D. degrees from Anderson Collegiate Institute in New Albany, Indiana, the last degree coming in 1860. He was ordained and installed as pastor of the First and Third

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Presbyterian churches in Oxford October 23, 1851, where he remained for three years. Because he was young, because he had limited experience, and because he knew learned men would be in his congregation, he hesitated before he accepted the call to Oxford. But his professor and friend, Dr. McMaster (President of Miami 1845 to 1849), urged him to meet the challenge, arguing that he would become a better preacher if kept on his toes. Another advised him that the Scripture says: "A bishop must be the husband of one wife, and that this rule should not be broken." Dr. Worrall replied he would "do his diligence to make proper preparation." Soon he was invited to a special meeting of about twenty-four ladies of the church, who announced that the meeting had been called to give him instructions about getting married. As the one gentleman present, he had felt some embarrassment, but the purpose of the meeting put him at once on his mettle, and he informed the good ladies that "if they had called a lady, and paid her a salary, they might have something to say as to who she should be." That ended the pious instructions of his would-be benefactors.

Dr. Worrall described his first congregation in Oxford as "delightful," with a "bevy of girls from Dr. Scott's school on one side extending nearly the entire length of the church, and a like company of students from Miami on the other."

He took at once an active interest in the institutions of Oxford, and it was he who secured the first subscription of \$5,000 for the O. F. C. endowment. "It was the work of the church," he said, as the col-

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leges were to train young women for the missionary field. Many times during his pastorate, earnest young missionaries would approach the heads of the colleges seeking a companion. Sometimes the heads could comply, and sometimes the maidens followed after the men had gone to the field. It was Dr. Worrall who said to the future President of the United States, "Ben, get your carriage and sweetheart, and drive me to the country to preach." (He must have wanted to save Benjamin Harrison from the twenty-four ladies who considered themselves authorities on matrimony.)

At the time of Dr. Worrall's pastorate, the majority of the population of Oxford and vicinity was what he called "raw." It was fertile ground for spiritualism to take root.<sup>1</sup> He put up with this humbuggery until it was claimed that communication had been established with a revered and deceased elder. Dr. Worrall announced a sermon on spirit rapping to be delivered in a grove. There for two hours he harangued a vast gathering so earnestly that it "laughed, applauded and wept"—and spiritualism passed out in Oxford.

So fine a man and pastor was Dr. Worrall that he was soon called to a larger field of service, first in Covington, Kentucky, then in Chicago, then in New York, and later to the Theological Seminary in Danville, Kentucky.

*Bethania Crocker*

The strength and the intrinsic value of a college

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1. "History of The First Presbyterian Church in Oxford."



do not depend so much on beautiful grounds, fine buildings and superb equipment, although they are highly desirable and wonderfully useful, as on the type and quality of its administrators, its faculty and its ideals. In these respects Oxford College compared favorably with institutions twice her size.

Bethania Crocker, although only sixteen when she opened her school for girls in Oxford at the urgent behest of Professor Scott, President Bishop and Professor William McGuffey of Miami University, was an erudite maiden, educated entirely by her father, a clergyman. She could read Greek and Hebrew and did higher mathematics for diversion. A born teacher, she founded at least three schools.

Small towns in Ohio and Indiana, prior to the Civil War did not have public schools that amounted to much. Consequently Bethania Crocker and other young educated women came to the middle west at an early date, and set up schools exclusively for girls or very small boys.

For her time, Bethania Crocker was a prodigy of learning, a leader in the movement for "higher female education." Judging by her picture, she must have been somewhat less than the average five feet five. Through one of her Cooper Seminary pupils, Mrs. John Adams, mother of O. C.'s President Eleanor N. Adams, we gather that she had the austere aloofness that seems to have characterized the woman teacher of that day. But it was an attitude that was satisfactory to the pupils, for there was a glint of kindness and sympathy in her face. She was a fine type of New England womanhood and embodied many of the ster-

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ling qualities characteristic of "the straight-laced" intellectual society of her native state, Massachusetts. However, in addition to heroic training, she acquired flexibility. She was straight as an arrow and wore her hair parted in the middle, drawn down over her ears. In dress, plainness, severity and neatness predominated. However, there was a touch of daintiness in the lace collar and brooch at her throat and in the white inset cuffs at her wrists. Her voluminous skirt just escaped the floor (instead of her knees), and no doubt she would have apologized had her ankle inadvertently appeared.

For four years, 1830 to 1834, Bethania Crocker successfully conducted her school for girls in Oxford, when, scholar that she was, she followed the vogue of the day by marrying a minister, the Reverend George Brown Bishop, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Oxford. Their three happy years together, working for the church and the town, closed when Mr. Bishop died December 14, 1837. Four years later, after a period of teaching in Carrollton, Kentucky, she married a Mr. Joseph Bennett, whose occupation is not recorded. He must have been at least a member of the church, most likely the Presbyterian, to be an eligible suitor. Then in seven years, in 1848, she was again widowed. To give her children every advantage within her power, she toiled morning, noon and night with the inexhaustible energy so characteristic of her and succeeded in giving each of her daughters a liberal education.

By 1862, Mrs. Bennett was teaching in the Collegiate Institute of Waveland, Indiana. It was from there

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that Dr. Robert D. Morris called her to be Lady Principal at the Oxford Female College of which he was the president. Here at the institution, the nucleus of which she had founded, she remained for only one year, 1862-'63. Dr. Morris was an inflexible man, and soon pedagogical differences arose between the two educators. At the end of the College year, Mrs. Bennett with her thirty-three years of teaching experience left. So great was her influence, five teachers and twenty-five pupils followed her to Cooper Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. One authority says the twenty-five pupils included the whole senior class. But the catalogue of 1863 lists two graduates, out of a senior class of six, one of whom was Lillie L. Morris, daughter of the President. The catalogue of 1864 lists seven as graduating then. Whatever number followed Mrs. Bethania C. B. Bennett, as she signed herself, her strength as an educator and leader was indisputable.

It was at Cooper Seminary, that Mrs. John Adams became a favored pupil of Mrs. Bennett and received her photograph, an enlargement of which hangs to this day in the chapel of the Oxford College Hall.

Some years later, Mrs. Bennett was invited to become one of the first professors at Vassar, but, for reasons now unknown, declined. Her last work, begun in 1869, was the founding of Bennett Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1900 her daughter, Mrs. Alice Bennett Allen, said: "My mother was a very modest woman, and although a teacher and in public life for over thirty years, was to the last of a very retiring disposition, never seeking praise for her-

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self or her work. But she lives in the hearts and lives of her children and her students."

*The Reverend John Witherspoon Scott, D.D.*

John Witherspoon Scott, born on January 22, 1800, in Hookstown, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, was of Scottish ancestry. His first paternal ancestor to come to America was John Scott, the laird of Arras, who settled in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. This Scott's grandson, George McElroy Scott, was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1793. He then studied theology with the Reverend Stanhope Smith, President of Princeton, and in 1799 was called to the Mill Creek church, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. He was the first Presbyterian minister to locate in the western part of Pennsylvania.

While in active charge of two pioneer churches, he also conducted a small grammar school where boys prepared for Washington and Jefferson colleges, then in their incipient and infantile stage. In this grammar school his son, John Witherspoon Scott, at the age of nine, began his early classical and preparatory education. He advanced so rapidly in Latin, Greek and lower Mathematics that in two or three years his father often had him hear the other classes recite. Then when still further advanced in scholarship, on occasions when his father was called away to attend to his parochial duties, John W. Scott frequently was left in charge of all the classes for a day or so at a time.

This early "practice teaching" was much to his advantage in later years when he engaged professionally in the educational field. He finished the prepar-



atory education, to which his father's school was limited, when he was sixteen. Thinking he would be too young and immature when he graduated if he entered college at once, he taught five years, first in eastern Ohio and for the last two years in Beaver and Washington counties in Pennsylvania, the last eighteen months as principal of the Beaver Academy.

So it was not until the fall of 1821 that John W. Scott entered Washington College as a junior. He was graduated in September, 1823. His first intention was to make some money by teaching in Kentucky. As he was about to set out for that purpose, the venerable Dr. Wylie, President of Washington College, went to him and expressed the wish that he prepare himself for the chair of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences in the place of the incumbent at that time. This aged professor was so infirm that often Scott had been employed by the Board of Trustees to assist him.

Dr. Wylie's suggestion changed the plans entirely, and John W. Scott at once entered Yale as a resident graduate student. He took the courses of lectures, more especially in Chemistry, under Professor Silliman, who was the most noted lecturer in the Natural Sciences at the time in the United States. From Yale he was graduated in 1824<sup>1</sup> with the A.M. degree. At once he returned to Washington College to assume the chair to which he had been appointed in his absence.

In 1825 he married Mary Potts Neal, daughter of the cashier of the Branch Bank of Philadelphia. She

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1. The year 1826 has also been given as the time the A.M. degree was conferred, but it will not tally with Dr. Scott's own statements of his various appointments.

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made his domestic life one of joy and was a pillar of strength for his work until six months after they had celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Mrs. Scott died March 1, 1876.

The Scotts had five children: Mary, who became Mrs. James Spear; Elizabeth, who helped her father in the Institute before her marriage to Mr. Russell Lord; Caroline, the future wife of President Benjamin Harrison; John Neal, a lawyer, and Henry M.

Professor Scott discharged the duties of the Washington professorship for four and one-half years, when he was called to the same chair in Miami University in 1828. He remained there until the spring of 1845—seventeen years that were happy despite the primitive condition of the college in 1828 and the even more primitive village. How primitive can be surmised by the fact that Peter Sutton, the Recorder, issued an ordinance in 1833 regarding marble playing for children from the age of three. "For playing in the street, alley, or on the sidewalk, or public ground within the limits of Oxford, twenty-five cents for the first offense, fifty cents for the second and one dollar for the third and thereafter."

Professor Scott, next in age to President Bishop, was genuinely interested in working with the President to build Miami into a strong college for men, a "Yale of the West."

In 1830, Professor Scott relinquished his work in the Mathematics department and gave all of his time to the Natural Sciences. In this same year, having studied privately for the ministry, he was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Presbytery of Oxford

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and afterwards frequently preached on Sunday to Miami students and to congregations in nearby churches. It was in 1837 that Augusta College conferred on him the degree of D.D.

In the early 1840's the Presbyterian church at large was in a state of turmoil as was also the Oxford church and the Board of Trustees of Miami University.

After a split of the Presbyterian church, the Oxford congregation, under the influence of Dr. Scott, colonized, and the College Corner church was organized in 1845. He worked unremittingly for a united church of Presbyterians in this country. But his efforts were not crowned with success, for slavery was the source of the bitterness. Oxford was close enough to the Mason and Dixon line for the question of slavery to be a rampant subject. Tempers were hot, and men spoke their minds freely, if not tactfully.

Because of strong discord and a reshifting of the faculty of Miami University, President Bishop and Dr. Scott were removed. Many people thought that this action was a grave injustice to these two fine educators, two Christian gentlemen, two scholars. Dr. Scott felt that his liberal views of religion and his strong objection to slavery were the contributing factors that drove him from Miami.

Soon Dr. Bishop was called to Cary's Academy in Pleasant Hill, Ohio, which became Farmers' College in 1846, Belmont in 1855, and was the nucleus of the Ohio Military Institute in 1890. Upon his insistence, Dr. Scott accompanied him. This move was entirely successful for both men. Dr. Scott assisted Dr. Bishop

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in founding Farmers' College and was able to realize his cherished dream—to start a Female Seminary for the higher education of young women. He was to have four years at Farmers' before he was called to organize a school for the higher education of "young ladies" in Oxford, which developed into the Oxford Female Institute and later into the Oxford Female College.

Following his resignation of the presidency of O. F. C. in 1859, Dr. Scott travelled and rested for a year with the exception of six months when he was supply for the church of Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

In 1860 he was called to Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, where he remained until July, 1868, when he went to Springfield, Illinois, to take the superintendency of a proposed Presbyterian academy or college. Here, he and a Mr. H. C. Donnell, a Presbyterian, leased the property previously occupied by Illinois State University,<sup>1</sup> a Lutheran College. In "the then pretentious building of the University" they conducted a school known as Springfield College, which operated for both men and women. "Females only boarding in the building" said an advertisement for the opening September 2, 1868. This apparently was a private enterprise, as the Lutheran church had no connection with the operation of Springfield College, and there is no evidence that the college had any official support from the Presbyterian church. In two years this project was given up because of the or-

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1. In 1874, Concordia Theological Seminary of St. Louis acquired the buildings of the old Illinois State University and moved to Springfield. But Dr. Scott was never connected with the school under Lutheran jurisdiction. See article by Harry Evjen, "Illinois State University," in *Illinois Historical Society Journal*, March, 1938.



ganization there of a tuition-free high school. Consequently Dr. Scott returned to Indiana and Ohio, preaching in churches without pastors until the spring of 1872.

Thinking it was time to retire from active service, he and Mrs. Scott went to Princeton, New Jersey, where a widowed daughter lived and where he contemplated finishing life in ease and comfort. But in the fall of 1874, when travelling in western Pennsylvania, he came to the village of Jefferson, where there was a Presbyterian church too small to support a pastor and a newly-organized Baptist institution, Monongahela College,<sup>1</sup> too financially weak to maintain a professor of Mathematics and the Physical Sciences. This was too much for the missionary and teaching soul of Dr. Scott. Here was a church, and here was the need of a professor in his chosen field. He stayed seven years.

By October, 1881, Dr. Scott was in his fifty-third year in the gospel ministry and the fifty-sixth in his teaching. At the age of eighty-one he closed his teaching career, having been in seven colleges, two of which he had helped to found.<sup>2</sup> His salary probably never amounted to a thousand dollars a year. He said he had always been too busy to make money. He never had a pastorate, or sought one, but usually unpaid, he preached to struggling churches.

From 1881 to 1892, Dr. Scott resided in Washington, D. C., and for some time was a government

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1. Monongahela College, Baptist College, Jefferson College are the names of the same school.

2. Some authorities say that he had a part in founding four colleges.

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clerk in the Interior Department. From 1888 to 1892, he lived with his distinguished daughter, Caroline, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, in the White House, where he had one of the best rooms overlooking the main entrance, the front lawn and Pennsylvania Avenue. It was well supplied for his every need, as well as for his tastes and inclinations. Before any member of the President's household had risen, he was up and about. Although he always had a carriage at his disposal, he seldom used it, preferring to walk when it was possible. Prior to his death, he was engaged for months on a voluminous genealogy of the Scott family, a record he was unable to finish. In October, 1892, he accompanied President Harrison to Indianapolis where they buried the body of the First Lady, Caroline Scott Harrison. One month later he fell into his last sleep as peacefully as a child and died November 29, 1892.

In her advanced years, Miss Alice Patterson of Glendale, Ohio, a former student in the O. F. C. spoke of Dr. Scott's genial face as wearing an expression of candor and goodness coupled with culture and dignity. "Certainly few instructors were ever more loved and trusted by their pupils. His memory is blessed and beloved."

Dr. John H. Thomas, whose father was a pupil of Dr. Scott, spoke of him as a "man of dignified and impressive appearance; broad chested and one who enjoyed robust health . . . A beautiful life, cultured, fruitful, unselfish was crowned with a rare old age, physically vigorous, enriched in mind and soul, cheered by multitudes of friends."

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The affection and loyalty of his students and faculty took form in a voluntary contribution of money with which to purchase and present to the O. F. C. in 1858 a beautiful oil portrait of him painted by George White, a local artist. Appreciating the spirit which prompted the gift, Dr. Scott furnished the frame, and the picture hung on the chapel wall for over thirty years. In after years there was a request that it be sent to the Harrison home in Indianapolis. The Board of Directors of the College, feeling they could not refuse, consented. After some years this portrait was sent to Miami. But Miami concluded the picture belonged to O. C. and returned it in the early 1900's, when it again was hung on a chapel wall where it hangs today and should continue to hang as long as a vestige of the old College remains. Sometime, probably during the absence of this oil portrait, a crayon portrait was anonymously presented at an Alumnae meeting in the old Grand Hotel in Cincinnati and was accepted by Dr. Walker, the president of the College at the time. Soon after 1929 another handsome oil portrait of this grand old man was presented to Miami. Miami graciously hung it in the parlors of the Oxford College Hall. This portrait shows Dr. Scott in his elderly years, a wonderfully preserved man, who never really grew old, who acquired his age gracefully. In this picture there is the gold-headed cane, with which, tradition says, he gently tapped the Miami lads when they joined his line of College girls enroute to the College from church or out for the daily walk and fresh air.

Dr. McSurely, in "The Diamond Anniversary

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Volume"<sup>1</sup> eulogized Dr. Scott as "a lovable man of the highest character, whose students spoke of his exemplary life, his patience, his inspiration to them, and of his diligent efforts in their welfare and advancement; as a man who bore himself with a simple unconscious and beautiful dignity that gained for him respect and influence; as a man always gentlemanly, kind, and affable who touched the hearts of his pupils in a helpful way."

George Alfred Townsend ("Gath," the newspaper man) said: "A more wholesome and beautiful man in old age I have never seen anywhere"—and "Gath" had seen multitudes.

A few pamphlets written by Dr. Scott, but no book, have been printed; a sermon preached in 1833 when cholera was a scourge to the community, a baccalaureate sermon, probably in 1840, and an address before the Athenian Society of Indiana University, September 25, 1838, on the "Aspects and Demands of the Times."

On the Sabbath before he died, hearing someone at the piano, he asked to hear the familiar hymn "Abide with me; fast falls the eventide," and in a low but steady voice sang all of the verses.

### *The Reverend James Hervey Buchanan*

James Hervey Buchanan was born near Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, on July 10, 1816. He was graduated from Jefferson College in 1835 and later

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1. A history of Miami University, 1824-1899, by W. L. Tobey and W. O. Thompson.



from the Allegheny Seminary. He was licensed to preach by the Second Ohio Presbytery April 15, 1840, and was ordained by the same Presbytery (The Associated Reformed) October 12, 1842. From 1842 to 1847, he was stated supply in Birmingham, Pennsylvania. He was the pastor of the Cedarville, Ohio, church from May 13, 1848, to December 10, 1854. From the middle of the winter of 1855 to 1867 he was Principal of the Oxford Female Institute, succeeding the Reverend Dr. John W. Scott. He was not only the Principal, but co-owner and manager with a Dr. Hair, who later became rich and famous for his discovery of a remedy for asthma.

After selling the Institute, Mr. Buchanan, according to "the Oxford Muser," went to Bellefontaine, Ohio. But the Manual of the United Presbyterian Church of North America by William Melancthon Glasgow gives no record of any charge there. Perhaps he was there from 1867 to June 13, 1870, when he became the pastor in Huntsville and Round Head, Ohio, where he remained until released April 29, 1879, from the former, and April 6, 1881, from the latter. He was stated supply for the Homestead congregation, Coal Valley, Illinois, from 1881 until his death October 18, 1883.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Buchanan was considered "a most excellent man; a fine classical scholar; a superior teacher; a good preacher, who was kind and sympathetic with young people." Had these been the only requisite qualities, the Institute under his administration would

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1. See Glasgow's Manual for this date.

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certainly have flourished for a number of years. But the increased enrollment at the Oxford Female College and the competition furnished by the opening of the Western Female Seminary left the Institute without large patronage, though the instruction offered was always fully up to the standard.

Two publications are to the credit of the Reverend Mr. Buchanan—"Messiah's Kingdom" in 1852 and "The Divinity and Humanity of Jesus Christ" in 1853.

Mrs. Elizabeth Henderson Evans, '64, and her sister, Miss Nannie Henderson, '66, two of Mr. Buchanan's former students, presented the Alumnae Association in June, 1900, with a fine oil portrait of him. This portrait and a companion one of Mrs. Buchanan still hang on the chapel wall of Oxford College Hall.

### *The Reverend Robert Desha Morris, D.D.*

The Reverend Robert Desha Morris, D.D., was born on August 22, 1814, in Washington, Kentucky. He was the eldest son of Colonel Joseph Morris, who moved from New Jersey in 1794. The Morris family—Maur-rwyce, literally "warlike, powerful"—was one whose primogenitor was a chieftain who flourished in Wales in 933, and who engaged in the wars between Cromwell and the Royalists. To escape the wrath of Charles II, the family fled to the Island of Barbadoes. From this island, the fourth grandfather, Lewis Morris, sailed for New Jersey and settled in Monmouth County, where he soon became one of the judges of the first Monmouth court.

Dr. Morris's paternal grandfather was a prisoner

in the Revolutionary War and was confined with many other patriots in Old Sugar House in Liberty Street, New York. His maternal ancestors, the Deshas, who had fled from LaRochelle on the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, came to New Rochelle in New York. But in 1784 they moved to Kentucky and shared in the privations and hazards of the pioneers.

Dr. Morris's mother, being descended from Huguenot stock, held tenaciously to the Calvinistic faith. Naturally her only son, Robert Desha, became imbued with these tenets and steadfastly adhered to them throughout his life.

Since public schools were either not available, or poor at the best, Robert Desha prepared at Bracken Academy, Augusta, Kentucky, entered Augusta College in 1830 and was graduated August 7, 1834. The next four years he spent in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey, from which he was graduated September 24, 1838. Vacations gave him an opportunity to attend lectures at Yale and to travel extensively over the country.

Licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Philadelphia April 18, 1838, it was no callow youth that preached his first sermon four days later in the Presbyterian church at Newtown, Pennsylvania, and his second the same day in the old Ben Salem Presbyterian church near Philadelphia. In August he was called to the Newtown church. His eighteen years in this pastorate attest to the successful discharge of his duties.

The Newtown church, built before the Revolution, was full of historic associations. Washington

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had his headquarters near by; many Hessians, captured at Trenton, were lodged within its solid stone walls. On the wall opposite the pulpit, a British officer scribbled in charcoal:

In times of war, and not before,  
God and the soldier men adore;  
When the war is o'er, and all things righted  
The Lord's forgot, and the soldier slighted.

These memories fired the heart of the young pastor; the old church was renovated, enlarged and flourished. In addition to his assiduous concentration on his pastoral duties, he preached and organized churches in other places in the country. He was always interested in education, as the establishing of a superior Parochial School and Classical Academy in Newtown bore witness. For years he was a devoted trustee of LaFayette College. Active in temperance work, he was president of the Pennsylvania State Temperance Convention in Harrisburg in 1846. He was a member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church at Louisville, Kentucky, in 1844; at Cincinnati in 1850; at New Orleans in 1858, and at Philadelphia in 1870. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from Centre College in June, 1870.

Dr. Morris had gone to Newtown as a bachelor, and as such he remained for almost four years, despite the wiles of the feminine members of his congregation. But May 3, 1842, he was married to Elizabeth, the youngest and lovely daughter of Matthew L. Bevan, an eminent merchant and a Christian gentleman of Philadelphia. For forty years she was his constant and accomplished helpmate. She was a charming lady of "the old school." Born in the lap of luxury where



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women, as a rule, were just ornaments, she entered into the work of an active pastor's wife and later of a college president's with "all the grace and dignity of a duchess," but none the less with enthusiastic vigor and efficiency.

If Dr. Morris was a bit over-awing, Mrs. Morris's genial smile at once reassured the visitor. The students considered it an honor when she invited them to visit her. She must have inherited many of her father's traits. He was not only one of the most distinguished merchants of Philadelphia, but also a traveler, as he owned several ships and made a number of voyages to China and the East Indies. He was a fine financeer, as well as one of the most famous ruling elders in the Presbyterian church throughout the United States. Hence, it was not strange that his daughter Elizabeth should marry a Presbyterian clergyman, nor that the handsome, embossed leather-bound album her father gave her for Christmas in 1832 was filled with religious verse and prayers carefully and neatly written with a fine Spencerian pen. The formal, deeply religious inscriptions, enlivened occasionally with the sentimental, give a glimpse of the style of expression in vogue even in albums which were meant to give portraits of friends, "simple and unaffected—just as I used to see him." However, some wag wrote:

The Album's Prayer  
Do pen a page  
But pri-thee write not dozing  
For in this non-poetic age  
There's much poetic prozing.

After Dr. Morris died in 1882, Mrs. Morris re-

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mained in the College to continue the work in which she had been engaged for so many years—the part of mother to all students in the College. For thirty-four years she lived and labored continuously in O. F. C. In return for this unselfish toil, she had the love and praise of teachers and students. Being highly educated, innately cultured and refined, a born aristocrat, she exerted a potential influence in forming character and molding the lives of hundreds of young women who came under her care. She was an unfailing source of comfort, happiness and inspiration. She, who had always enjoyed excellent health, was ill with pneumonia but five days. She died as she had lived, peacefully, December 8, 1893. She left the College for the last time between rows of College girls with bowed heads, softly singing "Nearer My God to Thee." With this inheritance, it was only to be expected that her daughter, Lillie Morris Walker, should in turn be a well-loved college mother, for she followed closely the footsteps of her mother.

From the beginning of his presidency of O. F. C. in 1859, Dr. Morris worked unceasingly. The strenuous effort required to administer the financial affairs of the College, to keep it running, handicapped as he was by none too-robust health (he was always on a diet, remaining at the table only long enough to ask a blessing) undoubtedly made Dr. Morris impatient with infractions of what now seem petty rules governing the students. He forgot his own boyhood, and perhaps he was always too serious-minded to evaluate properly the effervescent spirits and gaiety of care-free students. Trivial affairs annoyed him. He em-

ployed strong terms in speaking of pranks, such as "ungentlemanly crimes." He was at constant war with the Miami students, who, of course, liked nothing better than to out-wit him. *The Miami Student* of April, 1872, tells of Dr. Morris appearing before the Board of Trustees and making certain charges against the Miami faculty of failure to discipline the men. After hearing the unsustained charges, the Board voted confidence in "the judgment, discretion and firmness of the faculty"! Whereupon the student paper suavely excused Dr. Morris's "vehement folly" on the ground of "his age, his entering second childishness and mere oblivion." The "rank offense" was no more than a conversation between Miami students and O. F. C. maidens sans chaperone or invitation from the College. To the present generation, indulged with much freedom, this war between Dr. Morris and the men on the campus seems utterly foolish. But strict rules prevailed in all boarding colleges for women then. Because of the resident Trustee, Miss Agnes Morris, daughter of Dr. Morris, the later College found it difficult to free itself from the most unreasonable restrictions, though other colleges were granting more freedom. Miss Morris had been brought up under rigid discipline. However, she wished only the rules that would insure refined conduct, and her very presence was a refining influence of the highest quality. The College was fortunate in having her in close contact with its students.

But if Mr. Morris took things too seriously, not so his students. They would play up to the requirement of "expressing deep sorrow" when caught and

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reprimanded—and promptly do the same thing again. “The deep sorrow” that always freed them was an easy cloak to wear—temporarily. It did not dampen their spirits, for no matter how “deep their sorrow” had been, the sound of the bugle, blown by the stage-coach driver as he rounded the bend, brought them flying to the porch to welcome the new student or students. Nor did it interfere with their enjoyment of the Miami band which visited the sacrosanct grounds each February 22—a red letter day.

To Mrs. John Keller and Miss Hardy Jackson we are indebted for a glimpse of part of the daily routine of the College during Dr. Morris’s administration.

“From under the rowans, and the young maples and the old cedars, the girls passed into the long halls, mounted the stairs, and assembled with the other girls in the large chapel. Professor Merz would take his place at the organ; and just as the much-loved Miss Logue, or the greatly-admired Miss Wall, would step to the desk to read the Scripture lesson, a tall form in a dull colored dressing gown and carpet slippers, called by the students, ‘The Ghost,’ because he prowled about so quietly no one could hear him, would enter from the east hall, and Dr. Morris would take his place. After the chapter, he rose to lead in prayer. Then each of the seniors from her seat on the platform read aloud a paragraph from some article of current concern. They listened with trepidation, the rest with interest, to the President’s comments thereon. Sometimes he added a moral, or adduced something from his own experience. How timid they were, and how fast their hearts did beat



at rising to read before that accustomed audience! A hymn or two, the daily announcements, and Dr. Morris rose—the signal for the assembly to disperse. Mrs. Morris and Miss Mary Morris always attended these assemblies. Their presence was like a benign benediction. The girls felt an assurance of aid and sympathy and encouragement.”

These girls in their long crinoline skirts, gaily tripped along in their high shoes, “so full of life, they longed to utter some high note that would fill the dome above the rippling Tallawanda with their sense of joy and youth.”

The June was in us with its multitudes  
of nightingales all singing in the dark,  
And rosebuds reddening where the calyx split.  
We felt so young, so strong, so sure of God!

Dr. Morris, if not a handsome man, was at least not one to pass unnoticed; a man schooled in reserve, decided in character, as evidenced by his straight mouth, and eyes that looked on through one, he was a strict disciplinarian, who was often misunderstood because of his unrelenting devotion to what he believed to be right. In the words of Mrs. Annie H. Reiley Darrah, '81, “Dr. Morris was not the type of man usually spoken of as average, for he was too much a recluse to be popular. He was so retiring, and dignified, one could not get close enough to him to appreciate the amount of knowledge stored up in that cranium that topped his long, lean frame. It was not knowledge alone that gave him his superior air. It was his natural adaptation to the position he held. Had he been living at the birth of the nation, he could have been chosen as one of its founders.” He

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was stiff, not social. Still he was a man of kind heart and generous impulses, if also of an inexorable will. He was a firm friend and a stern enemy. Yet perhaps it was not the enemy he hated so much as his faults. He was deeply attached to his pupils, and did occasion require, the warmth of his heart was quickly felt. Those who met him only in the ordinary routine of school life, little knew the kindness, the affectionate interest, the genuine sympathy he was ever ready to offer to any of his girls who might be in distress. A gentleman of high culture, of untarnished Christian character, he knew how to hold the helm, and the confidence of the Church and of Christian parents. This was particularly true of Kentuckians who wanted their daughters to flee from the aftermath of a civil war, and still be in the hands of Christian instructors. At one time there were fifty-two Kentucky girls in one corridor.

During Dr. Morris's administration the curriculum was advanced to keep pace with the broadening ideas of woman's life work. Almost his last words were: "God will carry on this work. The old College will live, though I die." His prophecy was fulfilled for forty-six more years. Now it lives in the hearts of its former students and to a lesser degree in the Miami girls who are recipients of the Oxford College scholarships.

### *The Reverend La Fayette Walker, D.D.*

Born on a farm near the little village of Murdock, Warren County, Ohio, on July 22, 1846, the Reverend La Fayette Walker, better known as Faye Walker,

was of Scotch-Irish parentage, which meant a true blue Presbyterian. His ancestors fought at the battle of Londonderry and at the battle of the Boyne. Often when the Scotch and Irish did not receive reward or encouragement from the crown, they came to America, as many did during the reign of the first and second Georges. Lovers of liberty at home, they became ardent champions in the new world.

So it was that sometime prior to the Revolutionary War, Dr. Walker's ancestors, in search of freedom, came to America, and settled amidst the wilds of Pennsylvania. Among these was Samuel B. Walker, a surveyor, grandfather of the Reverend Faye. In 1797 he was appointed government surveyor and ordered to report at Ludlow Station near Fort Washington. There, living among the Indians, he took advantage of his opportunity to observe their habits. The Indians highly respected and fully trusted their new white neighbor, calling him the "Spirit Man" because he revered sacred things and observed religious duties. From them he learned the Indian names for the streams later known as Four Mile and Seven Mile. Four Mile they called Tallawanda which means "winding water"; Seven Mile they called Wautamah, meaning "flashing water." According to Samuel Walker's diary, Miami signified "Mother" to them. Seven years later Samuel Walker settled in Warren County, Ohio. One of his nine children was Andrew Jackson Walker, father of the Reverend Faye.

As a boy, Faye Walker attended the country school and then Mainville Academy where he was prepared for college. When eighteen, he entered Mi-

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ami University and was graduated four years later with the class of '68.

Even as a lad he must have shown something of his inborn talent for dramatics as his neighbor, James E. Murdock, thought he would make an excellent actor. It was under Murdock, "the greatest Hamlet of his day, the instructor of Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett and Edwin Davenport," that he had several years training in dramatic reading. It was to Murdock he was indebted for both his physical and voice culture and for his well-rounded tones. He wanted to be an actor. But his father, a rigid Presbyterian, had other ideas. He had not brought up his boy to be an actor. That settled the matter forever—with a loss to the stage.

Diverted from the footlights, son Faye thought of the law. But would that give sufficient outlet for self-expression? Perhaps not, for it was to the ministry he turned, with his Presbyterian father's blessing. He first attended the Theological Seminary at Danville, Kentucky, and then the McCormick Theological Seminary at Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1870. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Cincinnati in April, 1869, and was ordained by the Presbytery of Bloomington at Dwight, Illinois, May 29, 1870.

While pastor of the Dwight Presbyterian church, he married Lillie Lydia Morris, whom he undoubtedly met during his undergraduate days at Miami. She was the daughter of the Reverend Desha Morris, the second president of the Oxford Female College of which she was a graduate in the class of '63 and then an in-



structor. For thirty-three years she was his ever ready and loyal companion and helper in his work, whether that was as the First Lady in his church, Lady Principal, or the College Mother of his students. Each girl was to Mrs. Walker a daughter. Visitors were impressed with the loving care she gave the girls. In later years, one of these "daughters" finding that Mrs. Walker lay in an unmarked grave, was so shocked and distressed that she immediately started a movement among the alumnae and former students to provide a suitable marking of the resting place of her "College Mother." There was no difficulty whatever in collecting ample funds for this purpose as Mrs. Walker's grave in Lebanon, Ohio, testifies. This incident signifies the loving remembrance in which Mrs. Walker was held by all who came under the influence of her life.

During Dr. Walker's career as a Presbyterian minister he filled the following charges: Dwight, Illinois, 1870-'71; Taylorville, Illinois, 1872 to 1875; Indianapolis, Indiana, 1875 to 1877; College Hill, Ohio, 1877 to 1883; Collinsville, Ohio, 1883 to 1900.

When Dr. Morris died in 1882, death seemed to stalk in the wake of the College. The Reverend Dr. Wallace of the U. P. Theological Seminary at Xenia, Ohio, and the Reverend Dr. Bugby of Meadville, Pennsylvania, were in turn elected to the presidency of the College. Each died before he could assume the chair. It was then that Dr. Walker consented to accept the urgent call to become President of the College. He left a successful pastorate for a college, financially embarrassed, but rich in tradition and cul-

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tured atmosphere, where learning was surrounded by Christian influence—a greater challenge to all his talents than a single congregation could ever afford. For the College he chose ceaseless toil for his portion. He practiced the precept he laid down for his teachers: "Sacrifice yourself for the College." He was a Chesterfieldian Christian gentleman who was certainly kind and generous to his family. He was a fine teacher of Mental and Moral Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity and Natural Theology, and a scholar of distinguished repute who was full of love for his work. He always had time to give to the students. He joined in every kind of activity—even Hallowe'en and other celebrations—where he often made merry little addresses suitable to the occasion. The right thing to say was always at the tip of his tongue. The entire faculty supplemented Dr. and Mrs. Walker's tireless efforts to make the College a home, a family. Frequently he took with him on Sunday afternoon one or two students, or faculty members, to the Collinsville church he served as pastor. It was good fun to ride behind "Diamond," or some other high-stepping thoroughbred—for he was a lover of fine horses and always had one or two—and interesting, too, to listen to his brilliant conversation.

Dr. Walker's excellent speaking voice was the product of his elocutionary studies, while his easy off-hand pleasant address was the result of his extemporary preaching in the mountains of Kentucky. Strong in personality, possessing literary attainments and fine diction, masterly in speaking, he held his audience's full attention. To his students he con-

stantly gave advice, such as "Wherever you go, be upright; be gentle." "Sympathy is the golden key that unlocks all doors of mankind, and sincerity is the truest politeness—sympathy, sincerity, courtesy and uprightness are the adornments of woman which the world most asks." "Be thorough in whatever you do."

While a flowery, mellifluous vocabulary was his usual vehicle of expression, should gossip or rumor take a hand in affairs, he could, and did, reply in an effective and vigorous sermon, such as he once gave on the text: "A lie hath venom." So picturesque, so colorful were his addresses, that several village wits could repeat them almost verbatim—to the delight of their audience.

At Centre College in 1866, Dr. Walker delivered a course of lectures on "Materialism" that so pleased the administration the degree of D.D. was soon afterwards conferred on him.

In educational and Presbyterian circles, Dr. Walker was a power. He was a director of Danville Theological Seminary from 1879 to 1883, and for two years he was the editor of the *Presbyterian Standard*. He served frequently as a delegate to the General Assembly.

When in the closing days of the college year 1899-1900, Dr. Walker announced in chapel one morning his resignation as President of the College, a senior girl rose and said to him, "We remember now, as we shall through all future years, your sympathy and forbearance in all our close association with you. The love of your old students will ever follow you." At the close of the Commencement exercises, Professor Carl Hoff-

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man on behalf of the faculty and students presented with their united good wishes to Dr. and Mrs. Walker a silver loving cup to "emphasize in a way more evident and permanent than mere word or act can do our grateful appreciation of you and your work in our behalf." With the departure of the Walkers, certainly a chapter of the old College closed, a chapter never to be duplicated.

Upon severing connection with the College in the summer of 1900, Dr. and Mrs. Walker moved to Philadelphia where he accepted the pastorate of the Hebron Presbyterian church. It was in this charge he answered the final summons June 9, 1903, after a brief illness with pleurisy. A Mason of high degree, he was buried with Masonic honors in Lebanon, Ohio.

### *The Reverend John H. Thomas, D.D.*

John Hampden Thomas, a clergyman and educator, was also a Buckeye, having been born in Hamilton, Ohio, on May 5, 1848. He, like Dr. Scott, was prepared for college by his Presbyterian father, the Reverend Thomas E. Thomas, D.D. The available records of Dr. Thomas are sketchy. We know that he attended Yale, 1864-'65; that he is said to have graduated there; that he married a Miss Linda S. Rogers, January 17, 1878; that he attended the Theological Seminary at Xenia, Ohio, 1884-'85; that he was ordained to the Presbyterian Ministry in 1885; that Hanover College conferred an honorary A.M. degree on him in 1890; that Yale likewise honored him in 1898, while Miami conferred on him the D.D. degree in 1900.



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Dr. Thomas had two pastorates, one at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, the other at Marion, Indiana. He was a lecturer at Chautauqua Assemblies on the History of Christianity and other topics.

He was recognized as a man of indomitable energy and lofty purposes, equipped with fine mental, studious and industrious habits; as a good linguist and an extensive reader; as an honorable gentleman; as a considerate and faithful pastor.

In 1899, Dr. Thomas was elected Vice-President of Oxford College and, in 1900, President on the resignation of Dr. Walker. He was inaugurated December 1, 1900. The subject of his inaugural address was: "Strength — Beauty, the Crowning Graces of Cultivated Womanhood." As President he served but one year, 1900-'01. One of his two daughters was graduated from the College in June, 1901. He died in North Dakota during the late winter of 1904 after an illness of but four days.

### *Fannie Ruth Robinson, Ph.D.*

In the fall of 1898, one of the most literary and elegant of women crossed the threshold of Oxford College when Miss Fannie Ruth Robinson was made the dean and professor of Philosophy. Educated at Rutgers Female College, she already had a professional career of more than twenty years. Filling various positions, she had for the most part been preceptress or principal or both in the East and West. She was Lady Principal at Lake Forest for five years and also for five years in the Michigan Female Seminary.

In speaking of Miss Robinson one paid her the fol-

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lowing tribute: "To all who came in touch with Miss Robinson, whether as a student or as a teacher with the privilege of association as a colleague, to all came a keen sense of the privilege of association with a woman of highest intellectual endowments, of innate culture, of exquisite grace and charm as a woman."

Anna Cellars Wilson, '02, said, "One might have called her 'Lady Robinson,' but secretly we lovingly called her 'Fannie Ruth.'" Mrs. Wilson also recalls that when the Oxford College's defeated basketball team returned to the College it was Miss Robinson who smilingly greeted them with: "You dear girls, I am proud of you. You were too ladylike to play that game." (The opposing team had played by boys' rules, while the College team had been coached by girls' rules.)

Evelyn Crady Adams, '05, thinks of Miss Robinson as a "lovely lady of erudition and smiling dignity, who wore softly elegant gowns and poised her lorgnette with natural charm and grace."

When Dr. Thomas resigned the presidency in June, 1901, Miss Robinson became his successor, a position she maintained until June, 1905. She was the first woman to occupy the president's chair at Oxford College. She was an inveterate reader. It was not unusual to see the faint gleam of her flickering lamp lighting up her face as she quietly moved about the library, like some stately ghost, at any and all hours of the night. Her prose and verse were gladly accepted by many of the leading magazines of the country.

If not an aggressive executive, Miss Robinson was

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one of the loveliest of women, and no one ever had a finer influence over students and colleagues. Mrs. Anna Cellars Wilson has well said that "with emphasis placed today on the word woman, we would do well to remember the world needs the breeding and the poise and the unselfish thought for others that characterize a lady."

On leaving Oxford in the summer of 1905, Miss Robinson returned to her native section of the country. She died in East Orange, New Jersey, April 29, 1925.

### *Jane Sherzer, Ph.D.*

Of Scotch and German descent, Jennie B. Sherzer was born and reared in Franklin, Ohio. Graduating with honors from the Franklin High School in 1875, she spent the next two years in teaching in the Pugh District school in Franklin Township and studying medicine. An uncle, who was a physician, and who must have had a cast iron constitution, advised her to study six hours a day in addition to the preparation for her teaching and the discharge of her local duties. His ideas of what the human body could endure were extravagant to say the least. So it was no wonder that the combined duties of teacher and medical student proved to be too much for her endurance and that nervous prostration followed, requiring rest for one and a half years. As she was one to do things thoroughly, something had to be dispensed with. She, therefore, gave up the idea of becoming an M.D.

By living with relatives while teaching and recuperating, she had been able to save most of her teach-

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ing salary of \$500 a year. Armed with this support, and having passed the entrance examinations, she entered Ann Arbor. But soon she was compelled to leave the University and devote nearly three years to recovering her health. In 1880 she re-entered the University and remained eighteen months, when her plans were again interrupted, this time by the illness of her brother, who at the time was a teacher near Franklin. She took over his teaching duties for the remainder of the year. Elected as principal of the Franklin High School in the fall of 1882, she continued there until June, 1885, when she made her first trip abroad. In the fall of that year, she again enrolled in the University of Michigan where she stayed until 1887, when for the second time her health failed and she was forced to rest for a year.

From 1888 to June, 1891, she was first instructor in German, Mathematics and English in Oxford College and then professor of modern languages. Elected to the chair of Lady Principal in the spring of 1891, she accepted with the provision that she have a leave of absence for a year to study in Jena and Zurich. Returning to the College in the fall of 1892, she served as Lady Principal and professor of German and German Literature until June, 1894. In the summer of 1893 she took the final examinations at the University of Michigan and received the long-delayed degree of Ph. B. In the summer of 1894 she made her third trip abroad, conducting a party of four through the British Isles and part of the Continent. One of the party said she felt sure they saw much more for their money than the average tourist because of Miss



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Sherzer's intimate knowledge of Europe and of her acquaintance with many influential people. This trip for her was extended into eighteen months which she spent in Paris, interspersing her studies with trips to the principal continental nations, Egypt and the Holy Land.

Returning to America in 1895, she was the Principal of the Academy for Young Women at Jacksonville, Illinois, until 1899. Two of the summer holidays she spent in conducting parties from the Academy through Europe. One of these trips extended to the North Cape.

A tour of Western America in 1899 was preliminary to her sixth journey abroad, when she crowned her long, persistent, intensive years of study with notable scholastic success—the winning of the Doctor's degree at the University of Berlin in 1902 in recognition of her work in Middle, Old English, Old and High German, Old Scandinavian and Philosophy. She was the fourth woman<sup>1</sup> to be so honored by one of the world's greatest universities.

The fact that she was a woman occasioned various obstacles which had to be surmounted before she could secure even the permission to work for a degree in the University of Berlin. Many times the learned professors would arbitrarily refuse to examine a candidate after due course of study for a degree. Certain of these professors, being strongly opposed to women students, declined to see Miss Sherzer. Failing in repeated efforts to see in person the head professor,

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1. Joseph B. Bowles, writing in the *Chicago Record-Herald*, June 1904.

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she wrote him such an appealing, urgent, and earnest note of how she had journeyed all the way from America for the one purpose of seeking the highest degree from the University, he relented and agreed to talk with her. He saw a woman of much capacity, of deep earnestness, of intellectual attainments, of a gracious and winning personality, and his objections waned to the point of agreeing to examine her after due course of work.

For her dissertation she was assigned a Middle English poem, "Chaucer's dreame,"<sup>1</sup> in Speght's 1598 edition and in two manuscripts, one of which was in the British Museum and the other in the library of the Marquis of Bath. Hence, a trip to England and study in the British Museum were necessary.

Ordinarily men students working for their doctorate remained at the University four, six or eight years. Miss Sherzer finished her colossal task in three years, 1899 to 1902, by "working like a slave and living like a machine." No wonder that she was inordinately proud of her degree and that her stationery thereafter bore "Ph.D. (Berlin)," nor that the students cartooned it in a minstrel show. She did not have a quick, brilliant mind, but she did have the German type, one she could, and did, drive unmercifully by day and far into the night, a strong active intellect. Her lecture, "An American Woman in a German University," was always popular because of the novelty of the theme and the radiant personality of the speaker.

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1. Library of Congress Catalog of Printed Cards.

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Dr. Sherzer was of middle stature, robustly built and of abounding vitality. If she had not always been an intensive student, with discipline in the care of her health and methods of working, she never could have stood the severe mental strain of her course. To work two hours, then take vigorous outdoor exercise was her regular schedule, with absolute rest and relaxation on the Sabbath. Instead of taking stimulants as the Germans did, she took fresh air and physical exercise. Often during vacations she took a walking trip into the mountains. She realized that she must keep herself in topnotch physical condition if she were to attain her mental goal. She, therefore, came through her ordeal in good health and spirits, a vital individual, ready to capitalize on her long years of strenuous study and to enjoy her achievement.

Returning to America in 1902, she no longer signed herself "Jennie B. Sherzer," but more austere-ly "Jane Sherzer." She at once returned to Illinois College at Jacksonville where she was professor of English and Philology and dean of women until June, 1905.

*The Dayton (Ohio) Journal* spoke of Dr. Sherzer as "representing the emancipation of womanhood which she was to see accomplished during her lifetime. In an age when educational opportunity was still largely in the possession of men, she crashed through doors long closed to her sex to win an education. The University of Jena received her with doubts and the University of Berlin with opposition. In the very beginning of her career as Principal of the Franklin High School she shattered precedent."

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Her talents in education and administration combined with her natural driving force commended her to the Trustees of Oxford College, who called her to the presidency in the summer of 1905. Was she not a Phi Beta Kappa, a Ph.D., a wide traveller, a writer, and a student in Europe for about eight years? Socially she was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and the D. A. R. She had supported herself since she was sixteen, so she knew the value of money and economy.

The Reverend Calvin D. Wilson declared she entered upon the president's duties "at the acme of her power, energy and enthusiasm."

Although the College did not require that the president be a Presbyterian, still all the foregoing presidents had been of that denomination. To carry out the tradition, Dr. Sherzer, upon assuming her charge as the President, transferred her membership from the Methodist church to the Presbyterian. She at once overhauled the catalogue; strengthened the curriculum; abandoned the preparatory department; and established student government. She revived the two ancient literary societies that had been allowed to drift into oblivion, the Philalethian and the Calliopean. Eventually, through her efforts, these were federated under the name of the "Century Club." She organized a chapter of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, the forerunner of the American Association of University Women. She was attentive to any suggestion that might increase the power or efficiency of Oxford College. She brought speakers of note to the College, and in an emergency she could quickly fill in with an interesting description of some



place she had seen or some adventure in her travels.

Dr. Sherzer had little, if any, sense of humor. While others rocked with laughter during a students' minstrel show, even when the fun was at their expense, and although she did not audibly protest when some harmless, but telling and clever hits were aimed at her, a minstrel show was never again allowed. It may have been this lack of humor or the earnest desire for her students to be conversant with current events that led her to announce tragically at breakfast one morning that such a terrible thing had happened, she must tell them at once—"The Prince of Montenegro has died!" Hearing that, the most demure student of the entire College, lifting her eyes to the ceiling, quietly said, "And I knew him so well!"

The seriousness of Dr. Sherzer's mind and purpose, and the desire that her faculty should not waste their time led her to suggest in a faculty meeting soon after becoming President that in the future faculty meetings should not be mere routine, but that something should be read aloud that would be beneficial to teachers. This suggestion was such a surprise and so appalling to some of the faculty that others who had heard, *sub rosa*, of the scheme were convulsed with laughter, to the utter amazement of the President. That ended the affair. No reference was ever made to it again, nor any suggestion as to how the teachers' minds might be improved.

Although Dr. Sherzer was a serious-minded scholar, she had at least one romance and became engaged on one of her trips to Europe. She even bought material for her wedding gown. On the return trip, she

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changed her mind, and it was not for several years that the goods was made into a dress though not a wedding gown.

After leaving the College in late November, 1917, Dr. Sherzer visited the Orient for the first time. Returning to America, she secured an appointment in the Veterans' Service Bureau in Washington, D. C. She held this position about twelve years and until within ten weeks of her passing. In June, 1930, when Miami graciously sponsored a celebration in honor of the centennial of the founding of Oxford College, she came for a brief twenty-four hours. Over three hundred Alumnae and former students also came. She kissed each girl and made the same speech to each: "I remember your face. I do not remember your name. I am glad to see you." Whereupon a girl exclaimed that she had had something happen to her that she had never expected—"been kissed by the President of Oxford College!" At the banquet when called on to speak, she arose with difficulty, barely acknowledged the acclaim tendered her and said, "I will not speak of the past, for you know that. I will not speak of the present, for it is evident. As for the future, I feel it is safe," and sat down. After being thirteen years away from the College and meeting many people in the meantime, it was not strange that she could not name the girls as they came to greet her. But when she did not recognize two members of her staff, two with whom she had worked long and closely, it was evident that she was not exactly herself those twenty-four hours. Probably it was a deeply emotional experience for her to return to the College

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for its Centennial celebration. Perhaps her mind was somewhat dazed by the effort to link up the past with the changes of the present.

In the summer of 1932, she again went abroad, this time in search of health. On returning home in September, and hearing that her brother had died in her absence, she seemed immediately to lose all she had apparently gained and failed rapidly. She was soon hospitalized and died January 12, 1933, at the age of seventy-five, from Addison's disease. She was fittingly laid to rest in her beloved academic robe in her girlhood hometown of Franklin, Ohio.

### *Eleanor N. Adams, Ph.D.*

Warren County, Ohio, was the birthplace of the third, sixth and seventh Presidents of Oxford College. Dr. Walker came from Murdock, Dr. Sherzer from Franklin, while Dr. Eleanor N. Adams, daughter of Dr. John Mortimer and Eleanor Maxwell Adams, came from Lebanon.

The Adams were of Pilgrim stock, descending from Edward Fuller, a signer of the Mayflower Compact, and from a non-Mayflower Pilgrim, Dr. John Lothrop, the first minister in Barnstable. Dr. Lothrop, a founder of Congregationalism in England, was a Cambridge M.A. scholar. John Mortimer, Dr. Eleanor N. Adams' paternal great-grandfather, brought his family from England to Philadelphia in 1820. He was an English barrister, a former member of Parliament, and a great admirer and friend of England's Prime Minister, Charles James Fox. In Philadelphia he became a Unitarian, a sect not exactly popular in

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that Quaker city. But he soon found kindred spirits in intellectual attainments. He is believed to have had great influence on the mind and tastes of his grandson, Dr. John Mortimer Adams, and through him on his great-granddaughter, Eleanor N. Adams. John Mortimer, an importer of books for sale, was also a publisher of books, and edited several small magazines as well as a newspaper. He was a brilliant writer, lecturer and editor, a lover of books and a man of force. With the exception of John Mortimer, all of Dr. Adams' ancestors on both sides were established in America before the Revolution. Hence, Dr. Adams claims that she is "quite American."

Dr. Adams took her A.B. and her A.M. degrees from the University of Cincinnati, the former in 1902, and the latter in 1904. She was a research student in Oxford University in England in 1904, '07, and '10. These three years in England were her father's idea since he wanted her to know Britain as a resident, not a tourist.

Sometime prior to 1911, Dr. Adams taught in private schools in Cincinnati. She was instructor in English in the University of Cincinnati, 1911-'12. From 1912 to 1914 she was a graduate student in Yale University. In 1913-'14 she enjoyed the Currier Fellowship in English at Yale, where she took her Ph.D. in 1914. Her three years in England resulted in "A History of Old English Scholarships in England," which was published jointly by the Yale University Press and the Oxford University Press in 1917 — thirty-one years ago, but still yielding royalties in 1948.



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

From 1915 to 1918, Dr. Adams was head of the English department in Oxford College, forging another link between her family and the College. Her great-aunt, Mary Ellen Schenk Denise, had been a student in the "North School" 1838-'39, while her mother was a student of Bethania Crocker Bishop in the Cooper Seminary in Dayton.

Following the resignation of Dr. Sherzer in November, 1917, Dr. Adams was appointed Chairman of the Faculty. In February, 1918, she was elected Vice-President, a newly-created position, and in April she became the President, which chair she held until the College closed in June, 1928, although she was on leave of absence the last semester. Dr. Adams, a polished scholar, always at ease socially, had all the requisites of an executive. She was affable, just and considerate and was highly respected by all her former students and colleagues.

Dr. Adams is a member of American Pen Women; of the Modern Language Association of America; of the American Academy of Political Science; of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority; and of the Presbyterian church. Since 1929, she has been the wife of Mr. Randolph Matthews. The Matthews have established a permanent home in Coral Gables, Florida.

Of Dr. Adams, one of her students, Ruth A. Preston, '21, writes: "She came to the College fresh from her two years of residence in New Haven where she had just received a philosophy degree for work mostly done in Oxford, England. She had spent three years in study there and in travel on the continent and was steeped in the lore of those lands, particularly of

## LOYAL FRIENDS AND PRESIDENTS

England, most particularly of Oxford and above all of things mediaeval.

"A gay and charming young woman, and withal a sound scholar, she was also endowed as few persons are, either in the realm of society or scholarship, with a rare gift of language, which we who sat in her classroom were never to hear surpassed, and seldom equalled. Her impromptu speech had about it a precision, a warmth of color, a beauty of form, an appropriateness of epithet that held her listeners enthralled. The content of her lectures was equally absorbing and she had the ability to recreate the time and place of which she spoke and people the barest classroom with the grandeur and romance of the middle ages she so loved. One's recollection of those hours is rich as the illuminated pages of the old parchments over which she had poured; and her own fresh face with its long sea-blue eyes and unique crown of red-brown hair had about it always a vivid mediaeval grace.

"Born teacher she was, and many other things beside. True friend she was, and wise and kind. In spite of the war years, and the anxiety and distress and stringencies they brought, she kept her children in a sort of warm enchantment, safe and gay. She did not do it alone; she had valiant and noble women around her; she had youth on her side, her own youth and ours, but she set the pitch.

"Mummer's plays, and Boar's Head Festivals, singing on the old square tower on May mornings, evenings around her fire in Senior House, embellished with the inevitable quaint and vivacious anecdote—these

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

are the things we all love to remember that she made for us.

"Few things are more worth while than the gift of beautiful memories, especially to youth.

" 'Hers was the gift of iridescence.' "

*The Reverend Gilbert Lee Pennock, Ph.D.*

"By Tre, Pol and Pen<sup>1</sup>

Ye shall know the Cornish men."

Dr. Gilbert Lee Pennock, born in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1880, can trace his paternal ancestors back to 1685 in Cornwall. His maternal ancestors were German.

He holds the A.B. degree from Antioch College; the A.M. from Ohio State University; B.D. from the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Ph.D. from New York University and has had a year of graduate study in the University of Berlin.

His teaching has been in Ohio State University, Oberlin College, Boone University, Wuchang, China, Oxford College, and Miami University. His ministry covers three parishes in New Jersey and four in Ohio. For two years he was Cannon Missioner of the Diocese of Newark, New Jersey. He was also Archdeacon of the Western Counties of New Jersey.

While in charge of the Trinity parish in Hamilton, Ohio, he commuted to Oxford to teach Biblical Literature at the College. Later as the resident rector of the Episcopal church in Oxford, he also took on the professorship of the Classics.

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1. The first syllable of such Cornish names as Tremont, Pollock, Pennock.

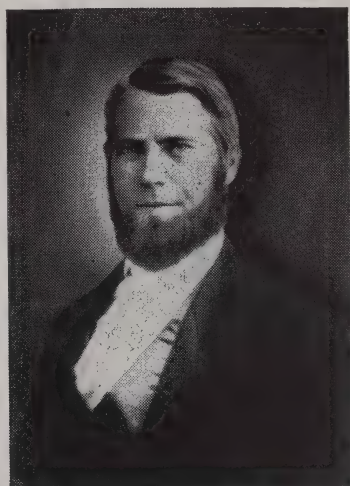
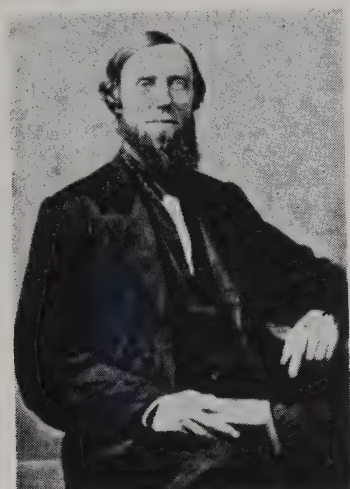
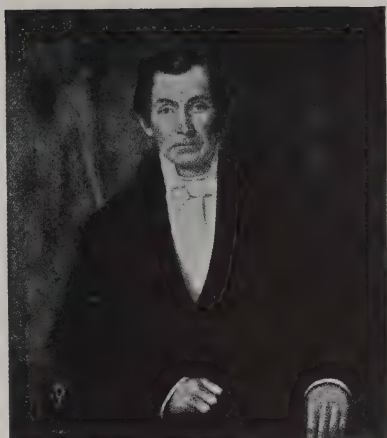
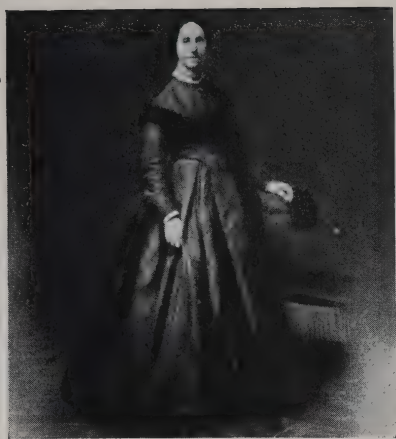
## LOYAL FRIENDS AND PRESIDENTS

With a clear, logical mind, Dr. Pennock took advantage of his fine opportunities for an education and travel. He became a man without visible prejudice, with straight and definite thinking. When some heckler would badger him in the classroom about the validity of this or that legend in the Old Testament and would question his beliefs, he gently but firmly said he was not in the classroom to teach beliefs, but the subject; that what any one believed or disbelieved was a matter of his, or her, own affair. In the Classics he endeavored to impress his students with the beauty of the language; particularly was this true of Greek, to which he had his own method of approach.

In the fall of 1927, Dr. Pennock was elected Vice-President of the College. From January to June, 1928, he served as Acting-President in the absence of Dr. Eleanor N. Adams—the first time in the history of Oxford College the chair was occupied by other than a Presbyterian, although the College was non-sectarian.



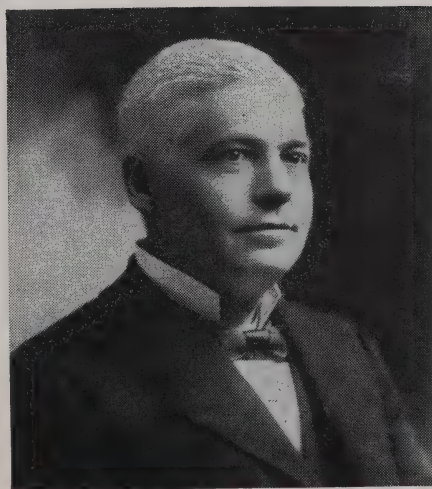




*Founders  
and  
Presidents:*

*Bethania  
Crocker  
Bishop  
Bennett*

*Robert  
Desha  
Morris  
(center  
left)*



*John  
Witherspoon  
Scott  
( top  
right)*

*James  
Hervey  
Buchanan  
(center)*

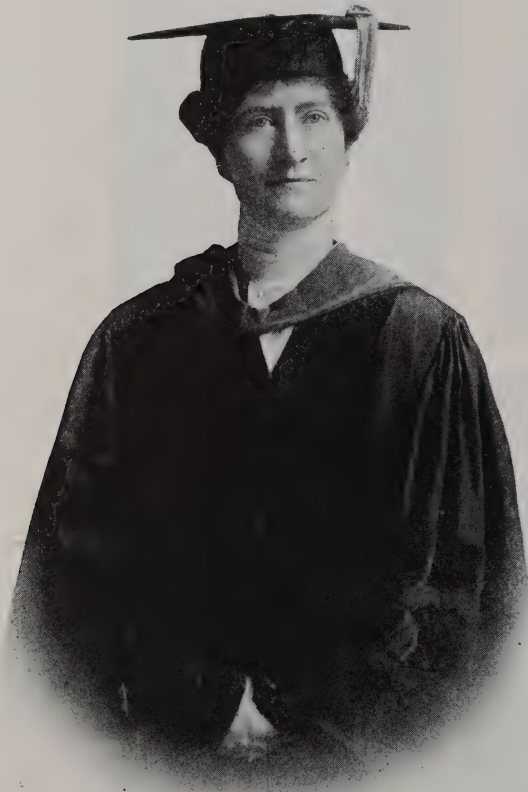
*Lafayette  
Walker  
(left)*

*Presidents of Later Years:*

*Fannie Ruth Robinson  
(left)*



*Jane Sberzer (below)*



*Eleanor N. Adams (left)*



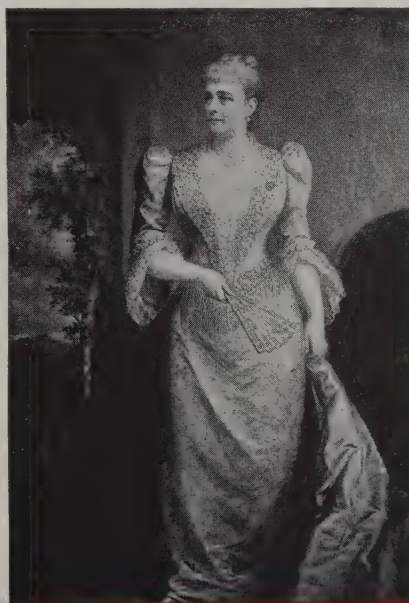


*Oxford Female Institute  
Chartered 1849 . . Present  
site of Oxford College*



*Caroline Scott, class of 1852,  
daughter of Dr. John Wither-  
spoon Scott, and wife of Benja-  
min Harrison, Miami '52  
(above)*

*Caroline Scott Harrison, as First  
Lady of the United States  
(below)*





*OXFORD COLLEGE as alumnae remember it —  
the long shadows of a pleasant June morning on  
the lawn, the well-loved tower, the inviting porches*

*THE CHAPEL as Oxford College "girls" recall  
it (below) . . . . . The parlors of the College  
in the '20's.*









*DRAMATICS* were always enjoyed by the students. The cast for "Colombe's Birthday" (above) and a scene from an operetta, "The Last Will and Testament," illustrate this phase of Oxford College life. The operetta scene was taken in 1878.







*SARAH L. McMECHAN of the class of 1861 of Oxford Female College . . . Demure and elegant, perhaps the typical college girl of her time.*

OXFORD FEMALE COLLEGE, founded in 1854, this building occupied in September 1856 . . . Known now as Fisher Hall, it serves as a dormitory for men at Miami University.







*COLLEGE GIRLS of 1927 in the costumes of an earlier era take part in a pageant . . . A May fete cast.*





### III. THE FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

IF "every organization of distinctive achievement is the lengthened shadow of its founding fathers, nurtured and molded by the resourcefulness of succeeding generations" and "the right kind of a teacher, one with a rich personality, can be of the greatest possible value to a student," Oxford College in its ninety-eight years of existence was particularly fortunate in its "founding fathers" and in its "nurturing" teachers. Therefore, brief recognition is given to a few of those who thought and labored for the good of the cause.

#### *Nancy Hemphill Stewart*

Of the teachers of the Institute, Miss Nancy Hemphill was undoubtedly the most outstanding. Not until she was about eighteen did she have any opportunities beyond those afforded by the country school; but inspired by a Commencement address she heard at Bethany College, which was near her home in Pennsylvania, she determined to obtain an educa-

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

tion. Years of struggle were finally crowned by realization of her ambition when she was graduated from Canonsburg Female Seminary. The following fall she began her career as a teacher in New Brighton, Pennsylvania. From there she went to Mansfield, Ohio. It was there in her seventh or eighth year of teaching that the president of the Oxford Female Institute, the Reverend James Hervey Buchanan, discovered her—both were loyal members of the United Presbyterian church—and prevailed upon her to become the Lady Principal of the Institute.

When she came in the fall of 1859, the Institute was but meagerly equipped. There were no opera chairs in the chapel, only benches which afforded but precarious seats. Nor was there steam heat, but a stove which often needed to be stoked with a big log in the middle of a recitation, and whose all-too-insecure pipe might further interrupt the progress of the class until the houseman, the general factotum, could be found to readjust it. No calamity at all, just a diversion! Not a very cheerful and encouraging setting for a less optimistic person. Miss Hemp-hill, however, arose above all that and "threw into her work all the rich resources of her heart and brain."

As there were only nineteen or twenty boarders, the student body was like a large family. Miss Hemp-hill delighted in gathering the students about her and talking to them as though they were her own children. With her keen insight and understanding, she could quickly see a girl's highest possibility and then inspire her to try to live up to it. In after years one of those who had been an earnest listener at her knee



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said of Miss Hemphill: "I have known many who had a broader education than hers, but never any one who had such powers of lighting up what she taught and inspiring enthusiasm in all who came in contact with her. Her large and loving heart, her wide sympathies enabled her to enter into the life of every one who touched hers, and to be to every such one an uplifting force. I count her friendship as one of the blessings of my life."

As a young teacher Miss Hemphill yearned to find somewhere a school for girls where she might realize her ideals for them. About 1865 or '66 she attempted to raise funds for her project, which had by then developed into plans to enlarge and extend the Institute. This proving to be too strenuous an undertaking, she was forced to abandon it. Then when the College and the Institute united in 1867, she felt that her hopes for a wider extension of the influence of the school were to be realized.

She was Lady Principal in the Institute from 1859 to 1867, and she held the same position in the combined school, the Oxford Female College, from 1867 through the college year of 1869, when she married Mr. Robert Chambers Stewart of Seven Mile, Ohio. Her enthusiastic and loyal service had enshrined her in the hearts of two presidents, her colleagues, and best of all, in the hearts of the students "to whom she was both mentor and a dear close friend." "No one ever heard her spoken of unkindly, nor of her speaking ill of another. She looked for the finest in one and then tried to bring that quality to its flowering."



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

After her marriage, Mrs. Stewart's home was a center of educational activity which was a new influence in the Seven Mile community and which she guided until her husband's death in 1890.

She adhered meticulously to what she preached. There was a story that as a teacher she had told her students never to get up from the table for anything. Some of them were visiting her in her country home when she forgot to put the bread on the table and left it on the mantel piece. One by one the visitors arose, helped themselves to bread and sat down. Not she, nor did she apparently take any notice of the affair.

At Commencement time in 1891, Mrs. Stewart returned to the College primarily to attend the reunion of a class whose members were especially close to her heart. It was then that Dr. Walker, ever on the alert for opportunities and advantages for his students, was inspired to invite her to return to the College faculty and occupy the newly-created-at-the-moment chair of Sacred Literature. After due deliberation she accepted. With her own home broken, there would be a comfort in spending her remaining years with the Morris family, the close friends of her earlier life, and in service to young girls again. In the catalogue of 1891-'92 Dr. Walker said: "The value of her influence in directing the investigations and in molding the character of our students is beyond computation."

Soon after her return to the College she organized an adult Bible class. Many ladies of the village, irrespective of church affiliation, regularly attended

## FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

these Monday classes, gaining inspiration from them.

Mrs. Stewart's methods of recitation were her own. They would not conform to the much discussed "lesson plan" of today, but they were equally effective. In this connection one of her former students, Miss Sara Norris, '96, said in a prepared address: "Her methods were often unique and her illustrations crude, but she never failed in impressing upon her pupils the facts she had in mind. The history of the Jews was her especial delight. Before I had ever met Mrs. Stewart, I had heard of her journeyings with the children of Israel in the wilderness. For every foot of ground over which they travelled she had a definite location. This path was traced on the map, or more frequently, according to a map of her own created on the blackboard. Every resting place was designated by various chalk marks. And that tabernacle with which her pupils were all made so familiar, inner and outer courts, and all the accessories! The drawing was not one to delight the eye of an artist, but it at least served its purpose. No one who has seen it can forget that the Jews did worship in a tabernacle at one time or Mrs. Stewart's idea of that tabernacle." Again "her illustrations of the Tongues of Fire, be your own interpretation what it may, forbade one's forgetting the occasion in which those tongues played an important part." Her sense of humor would often find vent in her apologies for her drawings, as when she was illustrating the deliverance of Paul and Silas from prison. "Her prison was not a very formidable-looking building, and poor Paul and Silas were hardly distinguishable from the doors and windows, for they

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

were represented by straight marks. Mrs. Stewart, however, with care, and great good nature, pointed out the position of the two men as they sang and prayed for their deliverance, and then told her 'dears' that she didn't mean to say these were good pictures of those saints, but that she was not an artist, and it was the best she could do."

Mrs. Stewart's optimism and interest in young people kept her young and able to teach and reach them. Although in failing health for some months, she continued at her post until within two weeks of her death, which occurred in Hamilton, Ohio, in the home of friends on December 12, 1897.

Howard Saxby said, "She was a walking encyclopedia of pure and undefiled religion."

At an Alumnae meeting of the Ohio Valley branch in 1898, a movement was started to collect \$4,000 with which to establish a scholarship in Mrs. Stewart's honor. Some money was raised, but this project, like several others, was abandoned before completion. It was at this meeting that Dr. Walker in paying tribute to her said, "that those who made the College what it was were Dr. Scott, Dr. Morris, Professor Karl Merz, The Reverend James H. Buchanan and Mrs. Nancy Hemphill Stewart."

### *Lorella Lusk Richey*

In this same period there came to the Institute a young, forceful and colorful teacher whom Oxford learned to admire and respect for many years—Miss Lorella Lusk. She was a graduate of the Dayton Commercial College when evidently "commercial colleges"

## FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

incorporated more of the strictly academic subjects than they do today, for Miss Lusk was listed in the catalogue of the Institute under the "Literary and Ornamental" department as well as under modern languages. She taught German, Mathematics, and History from 1864 to 1866, when she married Mr. Sutton C. Richey and became a permanent citizen and social leader in Oxford. She has been described as a "born executive." She was a zealous church worker, a temperance crusader and an organizer of literary clubs. Although a teacher for only two years in the Institute, her interest in the College never flagged. She was a regular attendant at its Alumnae meetings in Oxford. Her home on East High Street, where she lived from 1872 till the time of her passing on December 3, 1931, was long known as a literary center. It was, and is, full of beautifully-carved furniture and artistic things of foreign origin. Her only son is a graduate of Miami University and an honored member of its Board of Trustees. Since Mrs. Richey's death, the old link of friendly relations between the College and Miami has been maintained by her daughter, Miss Jennie, '88, who has given haven, gratuitously, to forty-five Miami students, among them students from Italy, Siam and South America.

### *Karl Merz*

One of the blessings of Oxford College came in the person of Mr. Karl Merz, professor of vocal and instrumental music in the Oxford Female College from 1861 to 1882.

Mrs. Marion Thayer MacMillan, who as a young



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

girl was a student of Professor Merz, delights in remembering her music teacher and describes him as "big; his shoulders square and well thrown back; his loose clothes careless and comfortable. Not a handsome man, but with a delightful face, which became more so as he talked about music.

"His studio in the College reflected the man. A piano, a wooden chair, a big deal table, and a step-ladder. Book shelves, filled with books, covered every inch of wall space from floor to ceiling; hence the ladder. Across the open window were wires upon which the wind played, making an Aeolian harp. He was deeply religious and bore a touching love and admiration for the country of his adoption. As a teacher of music per se, he must be judged by his own criterion. Music was for all. As necessary for the spirit as air to the lungs. He wished all to enter into this kingdom of delight with joy and understanding. He was especially successful in choral work. To his choral society in Oxford belonged all the men—merchants, druggists, barbers, and bankers—everybody. He embodied a rich contentment, having either flung away ambition for acquiring material things, or never having known its spur. Nor did he show that 'human all too human' craving for recognition that is typical of the artist temperament. He was one of those brilliant shafts of light that permanently illumine the dim passage called life."

Mr. Merz was born near Frankfort-on-the Main, in Bensheim, Germany, on September 10, 1834. His father was a public school teacher as well as an accomplished musician and organist of the principal

church in the village. At an extremely early age young Karl became so apt a pupil on the violin and piano, that he yearned to try the great organ over which his father presided. At the age of sixteen he manifested such great proficiency that his father entrusted to him almost daily the instrumental portions of the church service. Because of his skill on the violin he belonged to several orchestral clubs and thereby became acquainted with many prominent musicians in his vicinity.

He obtained his scholastic education in various Catholic church schools from one of which in 1852 he was graduated. The following year he was appointed as a government teacher in a church school near Bingen-on-the-Rhine.

About this time he became acquainted with an American gentleman who persuaded him that the United States was the "promised land." Realizing his opportunities, he first visited the birthplace of Beethoven at Bonn, then Cologne, Brussels, Paris and London and at barely twenty years of age landed in Philadelphia in September, 1854. His first job in the new country was as clerk in a music store. He soon joined a company of musicians who had nightly engagements. This schedule gave him time for practicing and for testing his latent ability and training in composing. In 1855 he became the organist in the Sixth Presbyterian church of Philadelphia. His first service in a protestant church so profoundly impressed him that he referred to it as "an outstanding day in his life." Eighteen hundred and fifty-six found him as an instructor in the musical department of Eden

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Hall Seminary at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Here he met and married Miss Mary Riddle, who has been characterized by one of Mr. Merz's ardent admirers as "very foreign, perhaps Austrian, and very artistic and who had beautiful clothes, modish too, but the way she wore them made them something more than that. Her dark hair she parted in the middle and drew down smoothly over her ears, which were adorned with large gold hoop earrings, making her completely exotic," a picture that caught and held one's eye and one thought "gypsy," then "peasant," "well, at least not American looking."

When the Civil War broke out in 1861 Mr. Merz was teaching in Hollis Institute near Salem, Virginia. Since he and Mrs. Merz were staunchly loyal to the cause of the Union, they felt a southern school was no place for them. They accordingly went north, sacrificing for their principles nearly all their worldly goods.

The following August (1861) Mr. Merz was offered the position of professor of music in the Oxford Female College. This he gladly accepted, and entered at once upon the duties of the position with all the ardor and enthusiasm of his nature.

In addition to his college duties, he was for many years the musical editor of *Brainard's Musical World*, published in Cleveland. He attained a world-wide reputation for the variety and genuine worth of his many musical compositions and publications, although his life was spent in the arduous work of a professor. He made his first reputation through his "Musical Hints for the Million," published in *Brain-*

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*ard's Musical World*. He wrote "Modern Method for the Reed Organ," "Harmony and Musical Composition," sonatas, nocturnes, operettas. He composed nearly all of the music played and sung at Commencements in the College. "He was genial in his companionships; a fluent and interesting conversationalist, and a laborious student in his chosen profession, and his kindliness of heart made every one his friend."

So boundless was his energy, so alert was his mind, so attuned was his ear, that he usually taught two students at a time, each having a different lesson, and a different piano. Sometimes he taught an organ student while he was writing and composing. Should one make a mistake, he was quick to tap the backs of her hands saying, "That is wrong."

Though his methods must have been difficult for his students, they loved him. He strove diligently to infuse into his friends and his students "an appreciation of the good, the true, and the beautiful in music." His interest in his students did not cease after they had left the College, for often he manifested it by a sympathetic note, or a new piece of music. He dedicated one of his compositions to his former pupil, Anna Matson (Mrs. Caleb Shera). Sometimes he sent a German newspaper to a student if she was conversant with that language.

He was interested in everything musical. He worked for five years preparing for a musical and literary entertainment. Finally there appeared a modest little four-page leaflet which invited the public to take a "Musical Trip Around the World"—for thirty cents! "Anchor was to be weighed at 7½ pre-



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cisely" on the evening of January 28, 1881, with "Captain Merz" on deck. The voyage was to be to the East and "as the craft entered the several harbors," the hands (thirty-four students!) were to give specimens of each country's music. (The program assured the audience the trip would be over "about 10 o'clock.") Professor Merz had obtained from the Far East several primitive instruments to use with Oriental music. The entertainment was truly unique.

In 1882 when the future of O. F. C. was a matter of conjecture, Professor Merz, "the eminent musical authority and composer, the inspiring teacher, the profound scholar, the sympathetic friend, who had made Oxford known throughout the Middle West for the quality of its musical training," was reluctantly released.

He joined the staff of Wooster University<sup>1</sup> where he enjoyed the same high esteem and affection that he had known in Oxford. He had spent eight years in Wooster when he was stricken with pneumonia, which caused his death on January 30, 1890.

He was buried in Wooster in a lot purchased by the Merz Memorial Association.

In commenting on Professor Merz after his death, the *Wooster Democrat* referred to him as "an earnest, enthusiastic worker; kind and generous friend; a true and unselfish artist." The *Dayton Democrat* spoke of him as "the large-hearted professor, the pride of Wooster University." The *Oxford Citizen* called him "the genius, the noble friend, the genial citizen; the kind father and grand teacher whose indomitable en-

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1. Now the College of Wooster.

ergy drove him to teaching up to two days before his passing." Another Wooster paper said: "This noble man has woven himself into the affection of our people as no other man ever did."

If he "were not regarded by the best critics as a great teacher as far as technique was concerned, although he played fluently," the love for a fine art he instilled in his students offset any lack of technical skill and was far more lasting.

### *Adrian Beaugureau*

One of the most genial and well-known citizens of Oxford for more than twenty-five years was Professor Adrian Beaugureau. He was born in Passy, near Paris, France, December 27, 1835, and came to the United States with his family in a sailing vessel in 1843. Enroute, a terrible storm sent Mrs. Beaugureau to her knees, as it did many others, in such earnest prayer for safety that when they reached the American port she felt they had been the recipients of special dispensation.

Mr. Beaugureau's father, an artist, conducted a boys' French and English school in Philadelphia. However, French was the language of the family, and Mrs. Beaugureau never spoke anything else. Here young Adrian completed his education and subsequently became a teacher of French Language and Literature, Drawing and Painting. After his father died in 1852, although Adrian was only a lad of seventeen, he became a special teacher of those branches, having classes in numerous schools in the city until December, 1861, when he enlisted in Company B of

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the 91st Pennsylvania Volunteers, serving for three years. After the war, he resumed his teaching, this time in Cincinnati where he had private classes in Art.

The death of a brother, and a year's illness, led him to accept a similar position in the Oxford Female College in 1864, where he was completely and continuously absorbed for eighteen years as head of the French, Drawing and Painting departments. He also taught French in the preparatory department of Miami.

Professor Beaugureau was born a Catholic, but his army experience and four years' exposure to the rigid Calvinistic faith led him to change his views of religion. He joined the Presbyterian church of Oxford on June 27, 1868, and faithfully attended the Sabbath services thereafter. He was treasurer of the church from 1888 to 1900 and for the year 1901-'02. Nobility of soul, innate refinement and experience as a teacher, talent and skill as an artist and a linguist outweighed his weakened Catholicism in the estimation of those who invited him to join the staff of a strictly Presbyterian college. Probably his closest associate and dearest friend, Professor Karl Merz, who was a year older, who was on the College staff longer and who had himself forsaken the Catholic faith for the Protestant, influenced him strongly.

Professors Merz and Beaugureau had much in common. Both were foreign born of educated parents talented in fine arts; both had been reared to revere the Pope and each had changed his mind; both had lived in Philadelphia first after coming to Amer-

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ica; both were loyal to the Union; and both, as young men, found themselves in a small village as members of the staff of a small college teaching cultural subjects.

Lest their friendship be marred, each agreed at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War not to discuss with each other the war or relevant subjects. They would take no chance that sympathy for their respective fatherlands might create a difference between them. This agreement they solemnly observed. They would walk to town together to get their newspapers, then separate to meet again after each had digested the war news. Thus through strength of character and self-discipline a beautiful friendship was preserved.

*The Miami Student* in September, 1869, carried an advertisement for French classes which Professor Beaugureau would teach Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 6:30 P. M. "for \$5.00 per session." This applied only to Miami students and young men of the village. While he undoubtedly wished to add to his meager stipend, like all French teachers, he was eager to extend his blessings to all who would avail themselves of the opportunity. What a privilege it must have been to sit in his classes and listen to his rich, resonant voice, to experience the courteous and polished manners of this elegant and cultured gentleman.

In addition to his scholastic duties, after fourteen years of teaching, he decided further to increase his coffers and opened in 1879, in Oxford, with the aid of his nephew, Mr. Louis Wuille, an art store under



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the name of "The Art Emporium." "One of the prettiest and most complete establishments of its kind to be found anywhere," said a current newspaper, which further commented that "a large number of the best instructors in the south and west have received their education from Professor Beaugureau, for his skill as an artist compares most favorably with that of the best instructors in the country." "The Emporium" was not only a "pretty establishment" but was the means of fostering and developing art ideas. Eventually books, stationery and other utilitarian commodities were added until the store was crowded but orderly as were his minute and church books, which were a marvel of neatness and economy—written with a stubby little soft pencil. Each page of the church book contained the account of several members all set off in small squares. For many years he was also treasurer of the Masonic Lodge.

Professor Beaugureau operated his store long after he left the College faculty in 1882. For years he lived with his widowed sister, Mrs. Wuille and her four daughters, to whom he was kindness and generosity itself. When they moved to Indianapolis, Mr. Beaugureau took two rooms over his store, where after a brief illness he died, and on May 10, 1908, was buried with Masonic honors in the soldiers' lot of the Oxford Cemetery.

In retrospect the Oxford paper said, "As a business man he occupied a prominent position in commercial circles of Oxford. As a citizen, he was one of the most valued; always identified with all important measures for the advancement of the com-

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munity and for his beloved adopted country."

*Gertrude E. Wall*

For thirteen years, 1869 to 1882, Miss Gertrude E. Wall was the popular and talented teacher of English. In the fall of 1875 she succeeded Miss Jennie Logue as the Lady Principal, for which position she was undoubtedly fitted both by nature and education. She was of uncertain age, for one of her former students says she "was twenty-eight," another that "she was middle-aged." But all teachers seem "middle-aged" or older, to students. At all events it seems that her own girlhood was not so far behind but that she could, and did, understand her students' problems. She was of medium height, had dark hair, parted in the middle and waved, dark penetrating eyes and regular features. She was "serious looking, but not stern," recalls another student. One whose life she helped to mold remembers that "Miss Wall always wore black of the best quality with white collars and cuffs, or a bit of white lace at her neck; that she was always very genteel looking; very dignified and aloof; that she never let herself down to the level of her pupils; that they never forgot to observe the dividing line; that her discipline was carried out with few words, but her icy cold look was sufficient to make them vow never to offend again." On the other hand the "twinkle in her eye and the sly little smile of praise were precious." She was a born teacher. If some romantic student spent herself in verse which was none too good, Miss Wall would gently say, "I think you had better stick to prose." Her keen sense

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of humor was always in evidence. If the class lagged or grew tedious, she always told a funny story or an anecdote which helped to implant the day's lesson.

Those were the days of public oral examinations. If the student survived the ordeal, she had "passed" in the subject. After attending one of these examinations, some visitors said appreciatively, "We were more than pleased with the recitation of the class in Shakespeare in charge of Miss Gertrude E. Wall, the principal teacher of the College. Being herself a lady of rare attainments and of unusual literary culture, she had infused a degree of enthusiasm into her class that was simply surprising."

Nothing of Miss Wall's background is known now except that she was "a Presbyterian, a fine Christian lady." Background has not been necessary for her. She had a presence that was entirely satisfactory and charming. No one spoke of her but to praise her. It was "the elegant Miss Wall," or the "lovely Miss Wall," or "the most charming Miss Wall."

### *Edell Ellis*

The girls of 1871 to 1882 well remember Miss Edell Ellis as one of the outstanding members of the faculty, probably not so much for real scholarship as for versatility, good looks, youth and enthusiastic personality.

During her eleven years in the College she taught at various times Mathematics, Latin, Physical Geography, Geology, Moral Philosophy and Evidences of Christianity! One of her former students in Geology says that she recalls no Geology, but that Miss Ellis

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had said the fewer hairpins one used, the more artistic the hair-do!

Miss Ellis has been described as "very good looking, with brilliant red-gold hair, fair skin, with fresh color in her cheeks," and as always wearing "rather stunning black dresses to set off her hair."

Was it her charm or a question of her ability to teach religious doctrine, that took all the clergymen of the village to her public examination in Evidences of Christianity that June day in 1882? Their very presence put every girl on her mettle. In spite of the excitement, the aforementioned Geology student remembers that she was called on to give "Humes' Argument Against the Miracles." That probably pacified the gentlemen of the cloth.

Miss Ellis was young and gay and full of spirit. There is a story that she used to enjoy clandestine moonlight rides with one of the gallants of the village.

Evidently in the days of whale-bone, long sleeves, wide skirts, and primness, just as today, an attractive, gay person who was able to serve well in sundry capacities could hold her own with the powers that be.

### *Mrs. C. L. Place*

From 1885 to 1887, Mrs. C. L. Place was the Lady Principal at the College. She evidently was a cultured woman and a successful Principal, for sixty years later she is spoken of with respect and affection by her former students. Her dark eyes and silver hair made her lovely to look upon. She must have been more of an ornament to the College than a pedagogue for she required the text in Psychology to be memo-



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rized even if not understood. If not a real teacher of book learning, as we understand the term today, she exercised a cultivating and polishing influence by her very presence, and Oxford College always sought to infuse the cultural into its students as well as to fortify them with learned facts and the power to think for themselves.

### *Rebecca Jane De Vore*

In the fall of 1887, Miss Jennie R. De Vore came to the College as the Lady Principal, succeeding Mrs. Place.

Miss De Vore was a graduate of Glendale College in the class of 1879. Her teaching experience, prior to coming to Oxford, covered three years in public schools, and four in Glendale College, where she taught Mathematics. In Oxford College her subjects were Philology and Literature.

The fact that Miss De Vore has been so variously described leads to the conclusion that she must have been an unusual character. "She was short and square," says a student of her day, "with dark hair parted and drawn back into a knot; fine eyes, but a plain face. She always wore mannish suits and shoes, was deeply religious and very demonstrative with her favorites. She was popular and many girls had a 'crush' on her with jealousies in consequence." "Born as Rebecca Jane, her family called her by the diminutive, 'Jennie.'" The girls took the first initial "R" and, pronouncing it as "our," dubbed her "Our Jennie." Another of her students recalls her as "a strong character, an efficient Lady Principal with great executive

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ability, and remarkable organizing powers; a refined and cultured woman who travelled extensively and was well versed in a variety of subjects, ready to fill any vacancy and very much beloved by all the students, who enjoyed her chapel talks on conduct and etiquette." A member of the class of '91 recalled, thirty-three years later, Miss De Vore's farewell chapel talk to them as a "wonderfully appealing and personal talk, one not to be forgotten." She had taken for her text: "I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from evil."

This deeply religious trait concealed, except to a few congenial spirits, another distinguishing quality of character. This quality seems to hold the key to understanding the divergent estimations of her. It is well illustrated by the account a fellow teacher gives of the following incident.

"Miss De Vore was tiny, but she was also strong and wiry, and enjoyed certain sports." Once she invited a colleague to go horseback riding with her. Of the two available saddle horses, one was known never to have had a woman on its back, and the other was thought to be in the same class. This did not daunt the two women, who had ridden all of their lives and were unafraid of any horse. Miss De Vore took the first horse. They rode sidesaddle and wore quite nondescript riding clothes. When they got out into the country and the road ahead seemed straight and clear, Miss De Vore said to her companion, "Come on, Nellie, let's run them and whoop like wild Indians" — which she proceeded to do. Companion "Nellie" fol-

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lowed closely but was unable to match Miss De Vore's whooping. When they were giving a "really impressive performance," whom should they meet at the next turn of the road but Dr. Warfield, Miami's dignified, Eastern-polished president! For once Miss De Vore was embarrassed. However, Dr. Warfield is credited with having enjoyed the encounter.

*The Oxford News* declared Miss De Vore was a favorite with both faculty and students and was highly regarded in the town. On the other hand, some students, no less qualified to describe her, say, "She was self-made; she had no native culture; she was impatient and disagreeable if requested to repeat a question." The fact that she was Lady Principal only four years lends some color to this adverse criticism.

Be that as it may, she must have been a power, for a movement was started to collect funds with which to build "De Vore Hall." That movement never reached realization, and Miss De Vore withdrew in 1891. After that, she travelled and studied abroad, was president of Pennsylvania College for Women for about five years, and both owner and president of Glendale College for twenty years. At Glendale she was known as "Lady Jane," or "R. Jane De Vore." Her strong and driving personality, combined with a brilliant mind, must have outstripped any shortcomings, and time may have mellowed her, for all Glendale honored her and still honors her memory. Until eye trouble—cataracts—overtook her, she was prominent in women's clubs, in social and educational movements, and as a lecturer. Her two dominant interests were girls and their education and the purity

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of the English language. A secondary interest was the W. C. T. U. One of the things of which she was extremely proud was her adherence to the pledge she had taken in her youth.

Miss De Vore's retirement was hastened by the knowledge that she faced blindness, at least for a time. She fortified herself for this ordeal by committing to memory scores of beautiful poems. Until her death, "a robin's chirp, a cloudy sky, spring flowers, an open fire, a snow storm, rain against the windowpane, an unexpected pleasure, or sorrow would bring to her mind some beautiful thought, and she would recite the poem appropriate to the occasion." She was a woman of conflicting emotions. One called for severity of appearance; the other responded to the beautiful.

After her retirement, she lived the rest of her life in Cincinnati with a great friend, Miss Nellie C. Fisher, who had been a piano teacher in Oxford College and had followed her to Glendale. Miss De Vore died at the age of eighty-six, May 6, 1941, after a week's illness. She is buried in Georgetown, Ohio, her birthplace.

### *Mary U. Pratt*

Mrs. Mary U. Pratt was a gentle woman of retiring disposition, well versed in her subjects, Philosophy and History, profoundly religious and a pillar in the College from 1889 to June, 1896, when illness necessitated her retirement.

Probably her greatest service to the College was her never flagging interest in the Missionary Society—



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the Society of Inquiry—of which she served as president time and again. Her white hair and apparently mature years distinguished her from the others on the staff. She had dignity, a quiet understanding, and a sense of humor.

### *Carl Hoffman*

Professor Carl Hoffman became director of Music in the College in September, 1889, having previously been professor of music in Bordentown Female Seminary in New Jersey and in the Pittsburgh Musical Institute. He soon began a series of lectures on the History of Music which he delivered before the student body. He also contributed to the students' publications, papers on various musical subjects. He established the monthly recitals with the idea that students might work off their stage-fright before the family audience and thus play with greater confidence before a larger and public one. In 1890 he composed the Gloria which the choir sang at the close of chapel every morning for thirty-eight years. In 1892 he was elected elder of the Presbyterian church as well as the organist and choir leader. It was largely due to his influence, to his tranquil but persisting efforts, that the church organ was secured. One of his graduates says of him; "A great soul. A fine teacher and a good friend. I owe much to his individual lessons. The hours spent in his Ensemble class were a great experience. Though he was quiet and reserved, his students regarded him with affection and respect."

When he resigned June 12, 1900, to accept a position in the Baptist University of Raleigh, North

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Carolina, closing eleven years of service to the College, the *Oxford Collegian*, regretting his leaving, said: "He performed his duties with distinguished ability, and enjoyed the respect and confidence of every citizen, teacher and student of Oxford. He believed in laying a firm and solid foundation for every student, and then building upon it with the best material. There was nothing false or shoddy about Professor Hoffman's work. He was patient, kind and persevering." Said Dr. Thomas J. Porter of the Presbyterian church of Oxford, "A man of remarkably sweet disposition, a thorough Christian gentleman, whose presence with us was a benediction."

### *Emma L. Ostrander*

It was in September, 1892, that Miss Emma Loretta Ostrander, honor graduate of the Boston School of Oratory, joined the faculty of the College as professor of Elocution. She was young, but poised, charming, vivacious, talented and blessed with a grand sense of humor. At the end of the year she was induced to return to the East where she stayed for the next five years. Coming back to the College in 1898, she threw her whole soul into her work with the result that her students caught her enthusiasm. She would literally make over a rather shy or awkward student and rub off the sharp corners until she was at ease in any society. But it was not all external polish, for the work Miss Ostrander assigned was intellectual as well as cultural. She said of herself that she was better in the classroom as a teacher than she was on the platform as a reader. She had the gift of directing

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others, of producing a smooth, finished amateur performance. Her plays drew capacity houses, for they were good entertainment. When one of her students went on the professional stage she was told she had nothing to unlearn. Miss Ostrander's influence was of the finest as she was a cultured woman whom everyone admired and respected. Students felt that she had intellectual vigor and a deep, sincere interest in them. She was not only an ornament to the College, but one of its pillars. Her influence and activities were not confined to the College alone. She was also a popular citizen of the village. Hence, it was with a distinct feeling of loss to the College and the town that her resignation was accepted in 1908.

*The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* in 1900 paid her the following tribute: "As a reader and a teacher, with her strong, magnetic force, warm sympathies, well-trained voice, amiability of disposition and her high character, she is acknowledged to be at the head of her profession."

### *Caroline D. Blanchard*

There came to the College in September, 1893, an ageless, mild but firm, little lady of Dickensian appearance who might have filled the role of "A Little Old Lady Passing By," a little lady named Miss Caroline D. Blanchard who joined the staff as professor of Art. She was gentle, yet aggressive; tolerant, yet persistent and tenacious of her ideas and beliefs. While she always sought to soothe rather than offend, she never sacrificed her principles and seldom changed her mind once she had reached a conclusion. Everyone

liked her. She had a pleasant disposition, genial and usually even-tempered, except on rare occasions when she sputtered so indignantly that she was amusing. She was an interesting conversationalist and a delightful hostess in her "sky parlor" atop the fourth floor, the whole of which was her domain. This "parlor" was resplendent in color that a quick glance identified as predominately Mexican.

She was as widely read as she was travelled. She was a "lady of adventure." Wherever she went, something happened that had never happened before or would not again for a generation. Thoroughly disliking black, she had to borrow and rent black clothes and buy a yard of tulle to drape over her iron-gray head when she went for an audience with the Pope. When asked if she, a loyal Presbyterian, had kissed the Pope's ring, she naively replied, "I just pecked at it a little bit"!

She delighted in formal social affairs, in the niceties of good manners, and felt there was a definite standard of conduct for the Oxford College girl. When anyone failed to measure up to it she was distressed. The teas she gave for her students each year were unique. Everyone was happy to accept her invitation. At these affairs she always gave a talk about some artist. She talked of artists as if she had lived contemporaneously with them and had known them well—their virtues and frailties as persons, as well as artists. She knew all of their works as well as she knew the walls of her studio, and her collection or reproductions was astounding.

She also enjoyed picnics, for she loved the whole



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outdoors, the beauties of nature, and was an ardent admirer of the pioneering spirit. When she was ill, a long walk in the country, or attendance at some gay party, was a substitute for a doctor.

Miss Blanchard's love of nature often took her to the country to spend an afternoon painting. A farmer, unaccustomed to roadside artists, and enroute to town, felt it his duty to report to the superintendent of the local sanitarium the character he had seen. The superintendent hurried to the spot—only to find Miss Blanchard busily transferring to her canvass the beauty of the hills—a riot of color in October. Sometimes the pleasure of these country trips would cause her to forget an appointment, such as a formal dinner given by the class of which she was the sponsor; however, she always made quick and generous restitution in a contrite spirit.

No one found History of Art dull with Miss Blanchard. The knowledge of art gained from the best teachers in this country and from her European travels, her appreciation of true beauty, combined with her acute sense of humor and a gift for mimicry, made her classes alive and interesting.

In the days of "Thou Shalt Not" with all their proscribed activities, "Bunny," as all of the students secretly and affectionately called her, gaily went her way, solving the problems with a funny story rather than a prohibition.

Her criticisms to her students were always tactful and gentle—"Can't you make it just a little prettier?" Or, as she filled in some colors the student had carelessly omitted—"They just fired out," she would say

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by way of encouragement. Or, "Mazie you see things too big. When you draw a house, there is no room for the yard." "Mazie" says this constructive criticism has helped her many times since when she has been inclined to "see things too big."

Looking back, one of her students says, "I am most grateful to her for my early appreciation of art." Another remarks that Miss Blanchard's History of Art course has stood her in the best stead of all the courses she took, that when she saw the Blue Boy in the Huntington Galleries, Murillo's Immaculate Conception in the Ringling Museum, and Durer's etchings in New York, it was Miss Blanchard's comments that came back to her as distinctly as if she were hearing Miss Blanchard's lecture again.

"In the thirty-four years that she taught Art and its appreciation, she influenced the lives of hundreds of girls, this gentle little Caroline D. Blanchard."

To everyone who knew her, trustee, faculty or student, she was a personal friend; to all who remember her she was the embodiment of staunch loyalty.

*The Oxonian* of 1921 was dedicated to her as follows: "She taught us to love pictures and statues and landscapes and all the fairy lore of art, and the beauty of the world around us; she taught us to love fun—and to love her."

In turn she loved the College and the students so sincerely that one said, "I am very glad I did not have to watch her go down the back stairs for the last time."

When the College closed, Miss Blanchard went to live with a married sister in Hollywood. She attended

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all of the meetings of the Oxford College girls of Southern California and entertained them in her home just a few weeks before she died on July 28, 1935. Her ashes lie beside the grave of another sister in Salt Lake City.

Evelyn Crady Adams, '05, said, "She was universally beloved because she attained the highest form of art in the beauty of her everyday living."

The following tribute written by Kate Englehart Clark, '22, gives a delightful word picture:

"From back, back into the last century, Oxford girls were privileged to know, and invariably to love, Caroline Blanchard, teacher of art and of the art of living.

"Her classes were perforce smaller than those of any other course, but her influence was in inverse proportion plus to the number enrolled. It encompassed the campus and spilled over into the community itself. Her diminutive, ageless figure was a component part of Oxford in toto: D. A. R. meetings in town, social and academic functions at Miami University, and, of course, her own Oxford College interests.

"Association with Miss Blanchard was in itself equivalent to so many hours toward a degree, so rich was her experience in those elements in which a civilization flowers—art, literature, music. She was as well a keen exponent of the lively arts, being a delightful raconteur and ultradeft at limerick.

"Miss Blanchard's rooms reflected her years of study and travel, an open sesame to youthful spirits eager for some tangible expression of the beautiful.

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"Similar was the pleasure in speculation upon what Miss Blanchard would wear to dinner—coral or crystals, onyx or opal, carved ivory or wrought silver. Whatever the choice, owner outshone ornament: the real jewel was the wise and witty tiny woman lightly descending the stairs."

A year or so after Miss Blanchard's death, the Southern California Branch of Oxford College Alumnae paid her the following tribute:

By the presentation of this picture of the Tallawanda Creek, the handiwork of Caroline D. Blanchard, to the Oxford College guest room, we pay tribute to her, our friend, a fine character, a great lady.

The life of Miss Blanchard was like a happy theme melody, uniting the years, more than forty of them, and the faculty and students of Oxford College.

Her unchanging, youthful enthusiasm for art, literature, music, romance and life itself gave delightful buoyancy to all spirits who met her.

Her life was lived in the spirit of good will for her friends and for all humanity and those who knew her still have her, Caroline D. Blanchard.

### *Josephine E. Sondericker*

In January, 1893, when the new Latin teacher, Miss Josephine E. Sondericker, arrived, "ascetic in her eccentric puritanical attire," the students stood in silent awe. She looked like no one else. She was rather tall, always neat as a pin in her severe dresses, all of which were of the same pattern. A plain, straight, fitted basque (two to every plain gored skirt which barely escaped the floor) of some substantial, dull-colored cloth was relieved by a narrow white ruche, or a collar, and was buttoned straight down the front. Her hat resembled nothing so much as an inverted stone jar—perhaps now we would say it had a Russian



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motif. Her iron-gray hair, carefully brushed into an up-do of a French roll so pinned down that no hair could escape, and her glasses, atop a rather prominent nose, increased the austerity of her appearance. But in the classroom the students found her firm but kind, impartial and absolutely just. Those once-cold brown eyes lighted up as she taught Latin "with the precision of an engineer." She was a marvel of a teacher. Her homely illustrations of some rule or idiom were strikingly apt. "I will knock off your hat for you" explained the ethical dative. One did not forget the ethical dative after that. Thus a sense of humor peeped out occasionally, for she was, after all, a most likeable woman. To a stranger her businesslike manner made her seem abrupt. At registration, when some timid freshman failed to answer quickly, Miss Sondericker would look at her through her steel-rimmed glasses and say sharply, "Say something, say something!" which only frightened the poor girl more.

As she possessed no watch, she carried a small clock dangling from her little finger as she went about her daily duties. When she left town for a day, she always carried a small satchel which was never entrusted to anyone else. Subsequent events now make it reasonably sure that this closely guarded piece of baggage carried the precious manuscript of her translation of Horace's Odes and Epodes in their original metres. This translation was the first that had been done by any scholar. It earned for her the A.M. degree from the University of Michigan.

Miss Sondericker's assistance to Harkness in revising his Latin Grammar was so valuable that he said,

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if necessary, he would go half way across the country to have her for a teacher. Consequently it seems assured that Miss Sondericker would not have subscribed to the sentiments found on a fly leaf of a Latin grammar:

If we another flood should have,  
For shelter hither fly.  
Though all the world should be submerged,  
This book will still be dry.

To her, the Latin grammar opened up beauties that otherwise would have been denied.

Even those fairly tongue-tied in her presence admired her scholarly ability, her stern devotion to duty and her high ideals.

It seems entirely probable that she did not have many pleasures as a young girl and that they came to her late through her students and her life at the College. There she learned to play the pipe organ, an accomplishment that gave her a joy she had not known before.

When compelled for family reasons to retire in June, 1907, she had rounded out fourteen and one-half years of service in the College, years of great benefit to her immediate students, and to all others of the College household. After she had returned to her home to take up the domestic duties for which she had no taste, she sought every short-cut possible—"No use ironing towels. They only get mussed up again!"

When called on to speak at the Centennial banquet of the College, she backed up to a wall saying she did so for two reasons: One, that it was a good lean post and the other, that she was a teacher and

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never liked to have students behind her. Her extemporaneous speech was the high light of the evening, so naive was she. She died on December 24, 1937.

### *Mary C. Holmes*

Miss Mary Carrie Holmes came to the College as its dean in September, 1895. There seems to be no record of her education or teaching experience in the United States. She was a returned missionary who had done some teaching in foreign lands— probably her greatest credential.

She was rather fine looking, evinced a strong personality, carried herself well, and generally gave the impression of being a leader. She was even more. She was a would-be dictator, convinced that with her all things were "posseeble." She attempted to govern the young American girl as she had "the poor benighted heathen," and was surprised when she met with a courteous, but none the less cool, rebuff. The young American girl was no vassal. Although Miss Holmes had no jurisdiction over day students outside of the College, she undertook to dictate to them in regard to their wearing apparel, particularly of the cap and gown. This, like similar orders outside her province, did not meet with success. It only created additional irritation and lessened her chances for being an acceptable officer to the student body.

As the dean, Miss Holmes claimed what she called the right to exercise supreme control in the government of the College—a one-woman government. Naturally the President, Dr. Walker, demurred, and the Board of Directors upheld him. Thereupon she

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tried to instigate a mutiny both in the faculty and in the student body. As this met with but a lame success, she and three of her sympathizers resigned at the end of the fall session. Prior to taking her departure, in a last desperate effort to coerce the President and the Board to yield to her, she called the senior class to her office and said she was not asking them what they planned to do with their lives but where they planned to go to college after New Year's. Only two of that class became victims of her magnetism. The others were graduated in June, 1897, from the College. Consequently the year 1896-'97 was known as the year of "The Holmes Rebellion."

### *Annie Laura Gorham*

When tall, lithe, energetic, striking and smartly-gowned Laura Gorham, with her wealth of beautiful brown hair, came to Oxford in 1897 to teach English, she registered an unforgettable impression on the students both in the College and at Miami. She radiated personality. While not handsome, she suggested the "Gibson girl" and affected that pose. To the joy of the seniors in the spring of 1898, she lived with them in Russell Cottage.

A graduate of Rockford College, with some special work in Chicago University, she was the dean and head of the English department from 1900 to 1904. Then there was a change in administration with which, for various reasons, she did not wish to live or work. No doubt there would have been cross-fires of strong personalities.

Her students regarded her as an inspiration. She



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planted the seed and soon there germinated in them an appreciation and zest for good literature so deeply rooted that it remained there forever after. She exercised the function of a real teacher. Her subtle humor enhanced by her ready wit made her lectures sparkle. Students did not "cut" her classes. They anticipated them with eagerness. She was said to be a brilliant interpreter of Robert Browning.

Miss Gorham aroused her students' curiosity because of a certain elusive remoteness. She was young and therefore could understand fun-loving girls and their pranks. Once after she had enjoined them to a period of silence, and had told them that subjects never turned their backs on royalty, all of the students at her table ate the next meal in silence and backed out of the dining room.

She was sufficiently vital to influence greatly a group of the girls of her day and to figure in the social life of the Miami men. After leaving the College, she enjoyed a brief married life as Mrs. Harper in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Her husband preceded her in death by several years. Her own passing came December 6, 1945, after a year's illness. She was buried in Rockford, Illinois.

### *Max Van Lewen Swarthout*

For six years, 1905 to 1911, the music department of the College was directed by the tall, slender and youthful looking Professor Max Van Lewen Swarthout, who had studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music at Leipzig for three years and had been a member of the Gewandhaus Orchestra directed by the

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great Nikisch. While the violin was his chosen instrument, he was an able pianist, choir director and composer.

He was an earnest hard-working instructor, affable and poised, though high strung. He instilled self-confidence in his students though he became so keyed up himself at a students' recital that he afterward had to play some mild game to relax. But of this his students had not even a suspicion, so self-controlled was he. He had a fine sense of humor, even when the merriment was at his expense, and he could appreciate the best intentions of others, as happened when a very young student said to him after one of his violin recitals, "You played acceptably!"

He came to the College in September, 1905, as a bachelor but soon fortified himself with a bride, the former Miss Myrtle Edwards of his hometown, Pawpaw, Illinois.

Mr. Swarthout composed the Processional and Re-cessional used in the College Chapel Service for twenty years, 1908 to 1928. Though difficult to sing, its beauty added greatly to the solemnity of the service. Hearing it, one could easily imagine she was in some high-vaulted cathedral.

Since leaving the College in 1911, Mr. Swarthout has held important teaching positions and has been director of church choirs. He is now dean emeritus of the College of Music, University of Southern California.

Mr. Swarthout is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, the California Music Teachers Association, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Kappa Phi, and Mu-

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sicians Guild of Los Angeles, in which organizations he has held high offices. Incidentally he is a Mason, a Democrat, the father of two boys and a girl, and four times a grandfather.

### *Donald Malcolm Swarthout*

After three years at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Leipzig, studying piano, cello, musical theory, having private instruction in voice under the noted tenor Perlusz and a year of piano instruction at the National Conservatory of Music in Paris under Isador Philipp, Mr. Donald Malcolm Swarthout, as associate director of music, joined his brother Max Swarthout on the College faculty in September, 1906. The College took great pride in these two brothers for they well proved the tradition that Oxford College offered instruction in music second to none in other colleges even twice its size.

Both brothers were in their early twenties but so gifted and poised they could easily pass for older men. They were talented but not temperamental. They were energetic and shared their gifts with the village. Mr. Donald at once took over the organ in the Methodist church, and Mr. Max, the charge of the choir while the regular incumbent was on a leave for a year.

In 1907 Mr. Donald became the organist and choir director in the United Presbyterian church, holding this position until he left Oxford in 1910. When the College opened in September, 1908, he brought back his bride, the former Emma Evelyn Bryant, a graduate of Northern Illinois State College. He plunged into his work, and on one occasion became so ab-

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sorbed, having but recently renounced his celibacy, that he was half way through his lunch before he recalled that he had not gone to escort his bride to lunch!

It was in this same year, 1908, that Miami University turned all of its teaching of applied music over to the College, and Mr. Donald became the Miami University organist 1908 to 1910. (This again illustrates the cordial relation between the College and Miami.)

Between 1906 and 1910 the Swarthouts presented three operettas—Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience," or "Bunthorne's Bride"; "The Mikado"; and Planquette's "The Chimes of Normandy." These were elaborately staged, with a large all-woman cast, and were enthusiastically received. "The Chimes of Normandy" was taken by special train to Hamilton where a successful performance was given.

Granted a leave of absence, Mr. Donald, with his wife, returned to Leipzig for the year 1910-1911, and in the spring of 1911 was graduated (with "Pruefung") from the Royal Conservatory. With this coveted distinction, he returned to the College, but only for a visit, as he and Mr. Max spent the next three years in Illinois Women's College (now MacMurray College); the following nine years both were in James Millikin University from where in 1923, Mr. Max went to California, and Mr. Donald to the University of Kansas as dean of the School of Fine Arts where he now is. Since leaving Oxford, Mr. Donald has built up musical festivals, organized choral unions, once of over five hundred voices, again of three hundred and



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fifty, and now directs a large a cappella choir and sponsors the Mid-Western Music Camp, now in its tenth year at the University of Kansas.

For nineteen years he served the Music Teachers' National Association as its "forceful, alert, yet genial and gracious secretary"; for two years as its president. This association speaks of him as "our beloved Don." For three years he was president of the National Association of Schools of Music, four years president of Phi Kappa Lambda, and one year president of Kansas Music Teachers Association.

In 1932 the honorary degree, Doctor of Music, was conferred upon him by Illinois Wesleyan University, and in 1933 the same honor was conferred by Southwestern College.

Mr. Swarthout is the father of two daughters and is thrice a grandfather.

### *Charlotte De Reubaut Mann*

The year 1907 brought to the College a cultured Parisian-born woman, Madame Charlotte De Reuhaut Mann, as professor of French. Her advantages in social life and education had been excellent. She had received a diploma from the Universite de France, studied in the Sorbonne for three years, at Buffalo University for one year, at Oxford, England, for one year, and at Columbia University for three years.

Marriage to a Protestant and desertion of the Catholic religion caused her to be estranged from her family. However, when she became a widow, her family took her little son, who grew to manhood without knowing his mother. Death then robbed her

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of her second fiance, and sorrowed and embittered as she was she yet kept her pleasant countenance. Despite her sharp criticisms she was a good teacher in the classroom; elsewhere she was a bit of a recluse. If she had to chaperone at some social affair, she armed herself with a book. According to her, most things were wrong one way or another, and she frequently voiced her objections in no uncertain language. But with it all, there was something attractive about her. Perhaps it was her innate gentility. A few years after she left Oxford, this trait came to the fore in her last illness, when she was gentle and endured her suffering with astonishing patience and sweetness. She must have made new evaluations, for she willed all of her books to Oxford College, the College she had served and unremittingly denounced for five years.

### *Grace F. Ward*

Grace Faulkner Ward, Smith A.B., Radcliffe, A. M., and holder of the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs' Fellowship in Social Science at Radcliffe, was the History professor at the College from 1910 to 1913. The first year she also taught Philosophy. Merab Eberle, '16, gives the following appreciation:

"Miss Grace Ward should be leaving an impress on the thought of this country. If she has espoused the cause of some excellence, she is leading young thinking out from rut and indifference into originality and eagerness to achieve rightly.

"Her classes called for hard work. The students bemoaned their heavy duties. They regretted, too, the

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grades which came their way, for the questions in her numerous tests were not routine ones. To pass them the students found it necessary to use their minds.

"Those who believed history to be a succession of dates and kings and cabinet ministers, learned in pain and delight that it was a living thing, a drama unfolding on a great stage of forever shifting scenes.

"Yes, her assignments were stiff. But in spite of the fact that the girls protested constantly at what was required of them, they asked for more and more. Her courses were among the most popular as the second decade of this century moved on its way.

"Miss Ward wore her brown hair smoothed back. Her head was banded with tight braids. She was young, (in her late twenties), but in our own lack of years we believed her to be mature. Her face was round; her aspect sober, but not severe. Hers, indeed, was a gentle nature, although this was not always apparent on the surface. We rather liked to think her as stern and even merciless—as one who enjoyed putting low marks on our papers."

While Miss Ward was always complaisant, friendly and noble-minded, she cared little for social life or conventions. History was, to her, meat and drink. The tools necessary for her work were her comfort.

### *Dagny Sunne*

Dr. Dagny Sunne, a charming and dainty little Danish woman with A.B. and A.M. from the University of Minnesota and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, with a nine-year teaching experience, was a member of the College faculty from 1913 to 1915

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as professor of Philosophy and Education. She was a scholar and an excellent instructor, teaching her students to use and develop their own minds. No memorizing of text books or parrot-like recitation was acceptable. She was uniformly of happy disposition, had a good sense of humor and was always just and fair in all her dealings. The College reluctantly released her to Sophie Newcomb College where she remained until retirement.

### *Clem A. Towner*

The last director of Music in the College was Mr. Clem A. Towner, who served from 1914 to 1928. For two years he was a student in Stern's Conservatory of Music in Berlin, specializing in piano, theory, and composition, the latter under Edgar Stillman Kelly. He came to the College with years of experience in private teaching and five years as director of Music and head of the piano department in various colleges.

Mr. Towner, like a predecessor, was a tall, slender man with long slim hands. He was a man of few words. One of his graduates in the College, who later studied under a Vienna-trained man said: "Mr. Towner insisted upon thoroughness and accuracy and clean-cut playing. He would never tolerate anything done in a slipshod manner. Our playing had to be as nearly perfect as was possible for us. He was an inspiration to his pupils, who always tried to please him. Praise was seldom given, and when it came you knew that you really had accomplished something."

One of his compositions, "Star of the East," was sung at the Christmas Vesper service, December 12,



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1915, by the head of the voice department. While in Oxford, Mr. Towner directed the choir in the Methodist Episcopal church in which his wife was the organist. Since leaving Oxford, and spending a few years in Conway-Arkansas College, the Towners have maintained studios in Altadena, California.

### *Mary G. Young*

The professor of History from 1914 to 1919 was Dr. Mary Gertrude Young, whose A.B. was from Cornell, A.M. from the University of Wisconsin, and Ph.D from Yale.

Dr. Young was tall, good looking, serious without being stern, and yet uncompromising in appearance. She was a quiet, even-tempered person, who never raised her voice even when she had cause to be annoyed. She was not exactly flexible, but she was always just and fair, always punctual and dependable, and she always had a warm and ready smile for her students. And yet, although they had high respect for her courses, and for her personally, they never felt close to her, nor did her colleagues. There was always a certain amount of formality.

She insisted that her students correlate history with the literature of corresponding periods. Those taking advanced French and German courses found it fascinating to trace the connection, to make an integrated whole, rather than a patchwork quilt picture. She insisted that students read widely. One point of view or one authority was never enough. All angles must be considered. She did not use the lecture method, but rather the Socratic—questions and more

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questions to draw out the student's mind, to lead her to develop the relation of facts. If one attempted merely to recite the text, she soon found herself floundering in Dr. Young's sea of Why? Why?

While Dr. Young was pleasant and easy to live with, she tolerated no nonsense. She was a profound scholar, who lent stability and strength to any organization to which she belonged.

### *Ruth Lansing and Helen Price*

Two of the most influential teachers during the period 1915 to 1919 were Dr. Ruth Lansing and Dr. Helen Price, the former a Ph.D. from Radcliffe whose work was in Romance languages, and the latter a Ph. D. in Classics from the University of Pennsylvania. Coming from Boston and Philadelphia to a mid-west village, they naturally gravitated to one another, and equally naturally brought to the students an entirely new point of view. They were women with rich personalities, culture and scholarly attainments.

Accustomed to work on the university level, they expected and demanded much of their students. Assignments, hard and numerous, "pulled the students up with a jerk"! They bemoaned their fate, struggled and plodded on—and liked it, regardless of their grumbling!

Dr. Lansing, particularly, was impersonal in her classroom. She had a ready wit which could on occasion wither a bluffer, but soon even those who stood in awe of her admired her and some became devotees.

Though Dr. Price was less formal, and less impersonal in her classroom she required the same high

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standard of work. She probably enjoyed and had a greater love for teaching in itself than Dr. Lansing had. Both women were sociable, friends as well as teachers, charming and interesting outside the classroom.

Although Dr. Lansing was far from robust, she was ever ready to promote some hike, some picnic, some party for herself, Dr. Price, and their students. She had a great sense of humor and love of fun, which, even though restrained at times, was usually evident. She and Dr. Price were sponsors for two classes and were always willing to help develop clever ideas, songs, stunts or special occasions, for each had that desirable trait—originality. In return for these favors, the girls entertained them at Sunday breakfasts, late feasts and parties on all possible occasions.

One can easily imagine with what protest a woman with Dr. Lansing's innate sense of what was well bred, correct and socially acceptable, ran counter to the ideas of the President. "A well-bred lady parted her hair in the middle, not otherwise," said Dr. Sherzer. Dr. Lansing wore her lovely dark brown hair neatly parted on the side!—and in a fashion becoming to her. Pointed remarks, broad hints did not change that custom. An interview, however, arranged by the President, did but it infuriated the owner of the side part, who resented the attempt to dictate to her regarding her personal affairs.

Dr. Lansing, with her hair parted in the middle, was released for work in the United States Secret Service in Washington, D. C., in February, 1918. There she distinguished herself by rendering valuable

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service in ferreting out some disguised and hidden facts.

There were some who thought Dr. Lansing played with people, like a cat with a mouse, just to see what they would do, and not because she really liked them. If that were true, and there is some evidence to support the appraisal, she chose for her "playmates" people who could give her as good as she sent, people whose weapon was like her own—quick repartee, people whose minds challenged hers and kept her on her mettle. She may have enjoyed a battle of wits, but she was also inconspicuously and materially generous, happy to aid any student who had a particularly good mind.

One of her students, Mary Loomis Cook (Mrs. David Buckley), who later took her master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania said: "Dr. Lansing combined to the greatest degree I have ever known, creative teaching with uncompromising academic standards. I think none of her students ever felt her courses were work—they were privileged opportunity to know something of the world of romance languages and literature. Under her guidance, our tastes and our minds were sharpened and refined and made aware of the whole sweep of literary history and of the nuances of the individual styles and concepts. In addition, the contact with such a stimulating personality gave impetus and inspiration to all of us, with far-reaching effects on the quality of our work and achievements in fields far removed from the subjects we studied with her. I truly believe that no student with any mental pretensions whatever could have had



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contact with such a first-rate mind and personality without being permanently affected—most decidedly for the better.

“Dr. Lansing’s point of view was so mature that working for and with her was a continual challenge. I know that for me she was the first person who opened my eyes to the world beyond college walls and who made me aware of my own limitations and yet gave me some constructive conception of what lay ahead of me.”

The world lost a highly cultured woman and a keen mind when she died of pneumonia on November 18, 1931.

Dr. Price was truly interested in her students and their advancement, both mentally and spiritually. “She was such a genuinely fine person and such a thorough scholar that it was impossible to work with her and not have a solid and lasting grounding in Greek and Latin,” said one of her students.

It was she who, with one other of the faculty, started the Triple Torch Society—the honor society. She remained at the College until June, 1919, when she resigned to accept a position at a larger college. She is now, and has been for a number of years, on the staff of Meredith College.

### *Leonie Vimont*

After an interim of six years the College again had a native French teacher, 1918 to 1921, Mademoiselle Leonie Vimont, who had been a student in the University of Paris, had her A.B. from Adelphi College, her A.M. from Columbia University, her teaching

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experience in a private school in Cincinnati, in Adelphi College, and in Vassar.

During the early part of the first World War, she served her country as a nurse. Coming back to America, she joined the faculty of the College in September, 1918. On the first Armistice Day, dressed in the uniform of a Red Cross Nurse, she carried a small French flag as she joyfully marched in the streets with others celebrating the momentous occasion. She knew war from experience, and the liberation of her country filled her soul with such a peace and gratitude that she, usually so voluble, was fairly speechless.

She was in the College to teach French, and teach French she did with such vigor and tireless patience that when a French bride came to the neighborhood, the only person who could converse ably with her was a blind girl who had studied with Mademoiselle Vimont.

In after years, one of those freshman girls who had sat with fear and trembling in her class employed a tutor before going to Paris, and was astonished at the amount of French Mademoiselle had drilled into her. Another of those freshman girls in Mademoiselle's class, Kate Englehardt (Mrs. Ralph S. Clark), '22, draws the following word picture:

"Fair indeed was, is, the fortune of freshmen whose entrance upon the academic scene coincides with the initial faculty appearance of such mentors as Mademoiselle Leonie Vimont and Miss Julia Harris.

"There is no gainsaying that Mademoiselle was formidable. Of heroic proportions and unpredictable reactions, she could glower in Gallic wrath at a gram-

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matical faux pas; or beam with eyes shining under the dark braids above her forehead, a benevolent Minerva, when a midwest or southern tongue managed to roll a proper r-r-r in passable attempt at French fluency.

"Mademoiselle, storming upstairs after *du fromage* at luncheon or despairing over frankfurters on a stick at College 'peekneeks,' struck terror in many a freshman soul. But that same girl, at next classroom roll call, hearing Mademoiselle linger over an occasional French name, 'Mees Chenault,' 'Mees Chastain,' felt a kindling of affection for one who also hungered for a touch of home, whether 'Kaintuckee' or *la belle France*.

"With the facility characteristic of her race for imparting French flavor, as it were, to the particular subject at hand, Mademoiselle infused all her teaching with the spirit of classical French literature. Students learned conjugation and vocabulary—and also heroic stanzas of Racine and dramatic excerpts from Corneille; the irrepressible Bertrand lived again; and the discerning developed a near-Gallic appreciation for a Gasconade.

"But above all, Mademoiselle epitomized republican France. Students memorizing *La Marseillaise* as linguistic exercise were soon caught in the sweep of its significance. And Mademoiselle were she teaching in the uncertain years since 1940 would surely in the verses of the Resistance poets—Elouard, Aragon—be ensuring that in France *le jour de gloirie* should know no setting."

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### *Julia Harris*

With a Ph. B. from the University of North Carolina, an A.M. from Cornell, a three-year period in the graduate school of Yale University, and with nine years of teaching experience, Miss Julia Harris was well prepared to be one of the professors of English from 1918 to 1920 in the College. Her scholarly ability and her quick wit made her an outstanding professor at once. One of her students, Kate Englehardt Clark, gives the following portrait of her:

"If Mademoiselle Vimont was formidable, Miss Harris was piquant. Tall, slender, with a quizzical smile and the charm of her Carolina background, she captured freshman fancy and was at once chosen their sponsor.

"Despite sundry protests against Yankee customs, Miss Harris's outlook was not sectional. The world of letters transcends boundaries, and of that world she was an enthusiastic citizen. Consequently her English classes were not passive lecture-theme procedure but periods fertile with budding, even blossoming, of the young idea. Using essays of Arnold and Newman as a springboard, Miss Harris stimulated, cajoled, or catapulted when necessary, her students into original thinking. Parroting what the text said was not acceptable; ideas alone, one's own ideas won an A.

"Not only mental but also physical energy was a requirement for Miss Harris's courses. The one in bibliography for instance—trip after trip to the Miami Library and hours (on foot) of poring over card catalogues and files. But the objective: How to use a library, how to use a book, how to use one's mind



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merited the effort. Inasmuch as any of us today can or will formulate an opinion independent of innumerable agencies that flourish for that very purpose, by just so much has that objective succeeded."

### *Helen Louise Gray*

Of another of her former instructors, Kate Englehardt Clark writes:

"Some faculty personalities shade away into indefiniteness minus the accustomed background of laboratory or lecture room. Not so Miss Helen Louise Gray, B.S., Coe College, A.M., University of Chicago and ten years in the professional field, who succeeded Dr. Mary G. Young as the history professor from 1919 to 1921. Off campus as well as on, Miss Gray's presence was positive.

"Certain of the classes of 1919 to 1921 will recall her as a picnicker *par excellence*. Not of robust health, she could, nevertheless, hike the two or three miles to wood or waterside, climb with agility any reasonable fence, and thrill to wood smoke either in the air or in her eyes.

"Back again to campus confines, her fragile appearance was no deterrent to crisp protest against a history assignment ill prepared or a term paper overdue. That was the exception, however. Miss Gray's lectures, given in a pleasant flowing voice, kept interest high; and her classes were as popular as her rooms at Fenton House, where she and her mother were cordial hosts to many a young collegian."

Miss Gray, on leaving the College, taught history at Miami University for a time and then went to Lake

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Erie College, Painesville, Ohio, where she now teaches.

### *Luise Lange*

Luise Lange, Ph.D., in 1917 from Goettingen, Germany, where only a few women were admitted to the Gymnasium for study, a native born German woman, with a scholarly mind, was head of the Mathematics department in Oxford College from 1921 to 1926. Unlike many teachers who are steeped in the lore of their subject, Dr. Lange could make the dullest pupils comprehend her mathematics courses, and the mathematically-inclined students call for more and higher courses. She and one other, Miss E. Howard Lothrop (1889 to 1891) were undoubtedly the finest teachers of mathematics the College ever had. They ranked with the best any place. Miss Lothrop had some ingenious method of her own for teaching geometry that was so effective that even those who had previously failed, succeeded well and sought higher courses. Her students challenged the Miami mathematics students to a contest. But Miami did not accept! Was this chivalry or fear?

Dr. Lange was a small, neatly-built woman, who cared little for dress or conventions. Yet she was cooperative and highly-respected by her colleagues and the students. Like most Germans, she was musically educated. She enjoyed tramping and horseback riding, alone or with some congenial spirit. Prior to her joining the faculty of the College, she was engaged in mathematical computations for manufacturers of physics instruments.

German that she was to her inmost soul, she was

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discreet and refrained from seeking sympathy for Germany. The College lost a strong teacher when she withdrew in 1926 to teach in Chicago.

### *L. Estelle Appleton*

L. Estelle Appleton, a graduate of Oberlin College and of Oswego State Normal School, held the Ph.M., S.M., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago. She had done research work in Clark University and in Columbia, and had been a member of Institut Solvay-Institut de Sociologie in Brussels, and a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington. She also had received a diploma from Vineland Summer School for Mental Testing. Her professional experiences included teaching in industrial training schools in Honolulu, acting as supervisor and department head in various state normal schools, teaching psychology and education in Marshall College, Milwaukee-Downer College, Upper Iowa University, and Kindergarten Training School in Grand Rapids, and assisting in editorial work. For nine years, 1919 to 1928, she was professor of Psychology and Education in Oxford College.

In two portraits of Dr. Appleton that have been submitted by her former students, there are rather conflicting estimates of her method of teaching, and yet both are probably correct, varying according to the personal angle.

To most students she was a "synonym of granite, a solid, uncompromising boulder of a woman; to all appearances comfortably unperturbed in a grizzled homeliness of face and hair. She was more or less

indifferent to the faces before her, as she was absorbed in 'the system'—a set of cards, each card representing a student. But let some student hesitate, Dr. Appleton looking just over the rim of her spectacles, would dart a spear-like warning at the silent student." She had such faith in the text used, according to one portrait, that she required verbatim recitation, rather like "chanting a Mass." Evidently she agreed with Ben Greet, who required his actors to be letter perfect, saying they could not improve on Shakespeare. She, no doubt, thought her students could not improve on Judd. "It was either as Judd said it, or it was not as Judd said it." No variation. "Her students were terrified lest they not be correct, for rumor had it that she had slain many via the failing grade. But that was not all. There was a quality in Dr. Appleton's disapproval that felled the stoutest!

"Dr. Appleton was as consistent in her philosophy as in her methods. She paid unrelenting tribute to truth and fact, and no nonsense about it. To wit, her writing on the board, for comparative studies, the I. Q. of all members of the class!"

On the other hand, the second portrait: "At eighteen, had I been asked which of the teachers at O. C. I admired most as a woman and a teacher, I might have chosen the brilliant Dr. Lange, or the exotic Miss Wolcott, or the sophisticated Miss Sroul, or the gentle Mademoiselle Michel, or the learned Dr. Adams, but never the methodical Dr. Appleton. While still giving each her due for the inspiration and the excitement of learning imparted so freely to an ignorant girl, today I try to be the kind of teacher Dr. Appleton was.



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"The General Methods class met. Dr. Appleton was always there. She took her place in the same spot each day, feet in their precise position, cards in hand. On each card there was a name, and there was no hope of escaping your turn. There was no hope of reprieve for the unprepared. It was rigid rotation, and the crafty could figure out and study harder the portion of the lesson likely to be hers. That is until one day Dr. Appleton dropped the cards. After that she shuffled them frequently.

"A question was asked; the calm searching eyes were upon you. If you had studied, all was well. If you had not, it became inadvisable to attempt bluffing. The result was a most industrious class. There was a feeling of security in the justice, the emotionless rating of your efforts, the thorough presentation of the utilitarian material. If she ever had a favorite pupil, no one ever knew it. She did lack imagination, at least in the classroom, but who could breathe fire, and humor and inspiration into a General Methods course? She saved her wit and humor for other places.

"When the teachers gathered in the faculty room before dinner, Dr. Appleton could be seen sitting quietly, erect, hands in lap, her graying hair neatly combed, wearing a dark, long dress with white collar, head slightly bent forward, listening to talk, seldom talking.

"The bell rang. Dr. Appleton made her slow careful descent to the dining room. Conversation at her table was general. She was a pleasant dinner companion, but rarely talked about herself. However, we

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girls did learn that having lived in Hawaii, she had had enough fish to last a lifetime.

"Dr. Appleton was not an exhibitionist, but she made certain that her students learned how to become conscientious teachers—and for that she had been engaged. Socially, she was a bit shy. If asked if she were attending some function, she always made the same reply, 'I have not time'—but she was always present. She was genuinely interested in the welfare and advancement of her students.

"We took Dr. Appleton for granted. I, for one, wish I could tell this good, kind, inconspicuous woman how much I like and admire her."

When the College closed, she busied herself in Chicago with writing up her family tree, and was proud of the fact she could trace it back to the time of the signing of the Magna Carta. While thus engaged, she became ill and soon afterwards died in a hospital in Chicago.

### *Clara Eve Schieber*

In 1916, Miss Clara Eve Schieber, a native Buckeye, took her B.S. in Education at Ohio University. From 1918 to 1920 she was a scholar and fellow in Clark University which conferred upon her the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees. After teaching two years in Ohio public schools and one year in Kingfisher College, she came to Oxford College in 1921 as professor of History and remained until the College closed. She was a member of the American History Association, American Academy of Political Science, the A. A. U. W., and the Lutheran church. For her thesis at Clark

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University she wrote "American Sentiment Toward Germany 1870 to 1914." In 1923 she assisted in preparing reports on German colonies in the Pacific to be used by the American Commission to negotiate peace.

Dr. Schieber, a small woman, always neatly dressed and carefully groomed, quiet and unofficious, soon made herself felt, not only in the classroom, but in the life of the College of which she became a staunch and loyal supporter.

Versed in her subject, alert and interested in world affairs, she saw to it that her students acquired the "current events habit." Many went out from the academic walls better informed and prepared to cope with public opinion than they would have been but for her constant efforts to keep them interested in world problems. She injected such life into the International Relations Club that it became a strong organization that frequently brought noted speakers to the College.

Dr. Schieber was a pillar in the Y. W. C. A., where her help was constant and generous. Her fine Christian spirit reached out to all corners of the College and permeated the whole body. She was not only a good teacher, but she was a good friend, and enjoyed the friendship and respect of the students as well as of her colleagues. She was quick to evaluate character and ability. Her never-failing intuition schooled her to know just when and where to add the encouraging word, to bestow the comforting smile, to give a support and self-confidence not found between the covers of a text book. Nor did this interest cease when

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the student had gone forth to make her own way. She continued to be an inspiration, to help convert the former student into the strong teacher. Her first ambition was to be a good teacher; her second was to develop others in the field. Her own home life and relations with her family were so altogether lovely that she was a lesson to those less careful of their treasures. Her uncompromising principle was another lesson. All told, Dr. Schieber added greatly to the inner life of the College. Her students will not forget their indebtedness to her.

### *Emma Curtis Tucker*

Dr. Emma Curtis Tucker, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, and a Ph.D. from Yale, came to the College at the opening of the second semester in February, 1928, to take charge of the English department. She had been head of the English department at Wilson College for five years and for six years associate professor of English at Goucher College. For the six years prior to coming to Oxford, she had studied and travelled abroad. She found in Goucher College a congenial spirit, a student who, like herself, loved the whole outdoors and cared nothing for social life or fashions. The two set out from Baltimore with only \$100 between them to hitch-hike their way to Oregon. Reaching Oregon, each got a teaching position which she kept only long enough to earn sufficient funds to take her to the Orient. After hitch-hiking to San Francisco, they sailed for the Orient, where again they taught and saved money for the next sailing on their schedule. They paid no fare on land, only on water.



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At some place in India the Goucher girl contracted smallpox. Dr. Tucker nursed her with calm indifference to her own safety and with firm faith she would not contract the disease, and she did not. They finally reached Bangkok where they taught.

Here Dr. Tucker left her heart and her entire interest. She, who was qualified to teach in any college, preferred to teach a lower level of academic subjects to the natives of Bangkok. There was something soul-satisfying in the work, and yet she was not a missionary in the common interpretation of the term, and certainly she was a law unto herself.

After about six years of this nomadic existence, the two came back to the United States in style, landing in New York with several hundred dollars apiece. But Dr. Tucker came only to go back soon to Bangkok to teach those yearning for an education. In Dr. Tucker's return to Siam, the American student lost an excellent teacher of a strong, colorful, and inspiring character.

And then there were others who will live long in the memories of O. C. girls for various reasons, such as:

Mary Morris, '65—Portrait, Crayoning, Landscaping Painting

Mary M. Wilson, '68—Science

Lizzie Smith—Commercial subjects

Virginia Alexander—"Prep." Latin and Greek (Vassar)

Ada Roodhouse, B.L., '91—Mathematics, English, Bible, Librarian

Nancy McKnight, A.B.—Mathematics (Wellesley)

Minerva McChain, Ph.B.—Modern Languages (Cornell University)

Lillie M. Schenck—Piano

Esther Levy—English Criticism

Mary Clark Bancker, Ph.M.—Philosophy and History  
(University of Michigan)

## FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

- Caroline Clark, A.B.—Modern Languages (Smith College)
- Estelle G. Clark, A.B.—Elocution  
(Wells, Boston School of Oratory)
- Shelly Wiseman—Mathematics and Philosophy  
(University of Chicago)
- Lillian C. Jones, A.B.—Greek (Wellesley)
- Annette Gault McClure—Elocution  
(Boston Schol of Oratory)
- Elizabeth F. Darling, A.B.—Natural Sciences (Wells)
- Frances Darling, A.B.—English and Literature (Smith)
- Madame Calame-Vermilye—Modern Languages  
(College of Bale, College of Lausanne)
- Augusta Paddock, '90—Mathematics  
(O. C., Columbia University)
- Harriet Agerter, A.B., Dean—History  
(University of Chicago)
- Bertha Provine, '91—History  
(University of Chicago, O. C.)
- Martha M. Warner—Mathematics  
(Michigan Normal, University of Chicago)
- Mary Louise Boswell, A.B.—Science  
(Wellesley, Cincinnati University)
- Sarah Weber Adams, Ph.D.—History  
(University of Chicago)
- Marie E. Gorham—Preparatory Department, English  
(Chicago Froebel School)
- Mary Lucinda Perine, A.B.—English  
(Albion, Smith)
- Grace P. Rardin—Piano  
(Peabody Conservatory)
- Madame Fannie G. West—French  
(Ecole Superieure et Geneve el de Bienne, University of Zurich)
- Isabel Ogden Oakey—German  
(Associate of Chicago University, Study in Munich and Paris)
- Catherine Alma Cox, Dean—English Literature  
(Indiana University, University of Chicago)
- Orma Fitch Butler, Ph.D.—Latin  
(University of Michigan)
- Isabel Graves, Ph.D.—English  
(Wesleyan University, Western Reserve, University of Pennsylvania)
- Anna Beatrice Doerschuk, A.B.—German  
(Oberlin)

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

- Marion Thayer Ashton, A.B.—Philosophy and Sociology  
(Miami University)
- Lina Balis James, A.B., Dean—Latin  
(Vassar, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, Rome, Paris)
- Madame Marian Van Duyn—Voice  
(Paris, London, Germany)
- Frances Louise Prosser, A.M., Dean—English  
(Howard-Payne, University of Chicago)
- Clara Della Murphy, A.B.—Mathematics  
(Wellesley)
- J. Christian Ringwald—Director of School of Music  
(Royal Conservatory of Music, Leipzig)
- Bertha Cold—Home Economics  
(University of Michigan, University of Colorado, Pratt Institute)
- Frances L. Petit, A.B.—Latin and Greek  
(University of Michigan)
- Wilda Wilson Church, M.O.—Expression and Physical Culture  
(Emerson College of Oratory)
- Mary E. Moxcey, A.M.—Philosophy and Bible  
(Syracuse University, Oberlin)
- Grace Edith MacLean, Ph.D., Dean—English  
(Temple College, University of Pennsylvania, University of Heidelberg)
- Louise Rodenbaeck, A.B.—German and later Spanish  
(Oberlin, University of Berlin)
- Mary Charlotte Hurd—French  
(Knox, Paris, University of Chicago)
- Alice Hutchinson—Home Economics  
(Pratt Institute)
- Arilla Patterson—Home Economics  
(Pratt Institute)
- Mary Cowper Pittman, A.M.—Latin and Greek  
(University of Alabama, University of Wisconsin)
- Mable Grace Compton, A.B.—Bible, English  
(Barnard, Columbia University)
- Mable Hester Coddington—Expression and Physical Culture  
(Northwestern University School of Oratory)
- Amy Irene Bloye—Home Economics  
(Stevens Point State Normal, Pratt Institute)
- Gertrude Ione McCain, Ph.D.—Mathematics  
(Indiana University)
- Margaret Daniels, Ph.B.—Philosophy and Education  
(University of Chicago)

## FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

- Emma Gertrude Jaeck, Ph.D.—German and Spanish  
(University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, University of Berlin)
- Clara Bancroft—Voice  
(Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Student in New York, Paris and Munich)
- Mary A. Fitch, Ph.D.—Home Economics  
(University of Missouri, Cornell University)
- Stella May Dean—Home Economics  
(Wm. Smith College of Geneva, N.Y., Pratt Institute)
- Florence Swisher, A.M.—Bible and English  
(Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State University, University of Chicago)
- Gertrude Gustafson—Home Economics  
(Pratt Institute)
- Louise Logie, B.S.—Chemistry  
(Northwestern University)
- Sylvia Fuson Ferguson, A.M.—Botany  
(O. C., Miami University, Ohio State University)
- Gertrude King Reed, A.M.—Sociology and English  
(University of Wisconsin)
- Edith Alston Holton, A.M.—English  
(Boston University, Columbia, Oxford, England)
- Clara A. Holtzhauser, Ph.D.—Latin and Greek  
(University of Pennsylvania)
- Mademoiselle Germaine Villedieu, E.P., B.A.  
(University of Paris, North Carolina College for Women, University of Chicago)
- Helen Wolcott, A.M.—English  
(Adrian College, University of Michigan, University of Chicago)
- Gertrude P. Thornhill, A.M.—English  
(Ohio University, Columbia, Harvard)
- Agnes Blanche Powell, A.M., Dean of Women—English  
(Kalamazoo College, University of Chicago)
- Alina Marie Lindegren, Ph.D.—Economics and Sociology  
(University of Wisconsin)
- Henrietta Lisk, Sc.D.—Science  
(Florida State College, Columbia, Johns Hopkins)
- Inez Allen—Home Economics  
(Stout Institute, Chicago University, University of Wisconsin)
- Dorothy Bangham, B.L.—Play Production, Public Speaking, Physical Education  
(Northwestern University)



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Mademoiselle Marie-Louise Carro, A.M.—French

(University of Paris, University of Chicago)

Theresa Baum, A.M.—Spanish

(University of Kansas, University of Mexico)

Mary Lenander—Voice

(Royal Conservatory of Music, Leipzig, London and Paris)

In 1948 a graduate of 1914 said, "One thing about O. C. that has always remained vivid with me was the faculty. For a small, and certainly not a rich college, I have always marvelled at the quality of the faculty."

In 1856 the Reverend J. C. Moffatt, D.D., said in the dedicatory address: "Instruction can not call genius into being, but without instruction, genius will remain a diamond in the mine, useless and unhonored. Smelting does not make the silver, but without smelting, it would never be anything but ore."

### FIELD SECRETARIES

While the College had several field secretaries, the following three served the longest.

#### *Lelia Z. Calhoun*

Miss Lelia Zerilda Calhoun, a native Kentuckian, and a graduate of Kentucky State University, was born in the lap of luxury with a "silver spoon in her mouth." She always kept a silver tongue, if not the "spoon," for she was witty and ever ready with a clever rejoinder. One of "her girls" described her as "realistic and cosmopolitan, with an enviable sense of humor and a spirit of good cheer, always alert to extend help to a worthy student." She was always attractively and becomingly dressed, a finely cultured

## FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

woman with a merry way and a resourceful mind. She understood her fellow Kentuckians, knew the best methods to use with them, and did her work most successfully. One Kentucky girl said, "If Miss Calhoun solicits you to become an Oxford College student, you might as well buy a railroad ticket for Oxford and save time." The College always had considerable patronage from Kentucky and farther south, and these girls brought with them that distinctive grace and delicacy which seem instinctively to cling to the best people of that section.

The girls she brought to the College were devoted to her then and ever after. It was she who originally engineered the plan to have an annual Kentucky reception. This reception was a high light of the season for in the late '90's and early 1900's there were no movies, nor many dances or other types of entertainment in Oxford.

After serving the College for six years, 1898 to 1904, Miss Calhoun left to represent an Eastern school, but she always maintained an abiding interest in her Oxford College girls, and they in her.

In after years she owned and conducted a private school in Louisville. She was the first woman ever elected to the Board of Education of Louisville, where she helped to organize the Parent-Teacher Association Student Loan Fund, by which boys and girls could remain in school past the time a working permit could be secured. She was past regent of Fincastle Chapter of the D. A. R. and a member of the Woman's Club and of the Second Presbyterian church.

In middle life she married Mr. Peter Leidenger,

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

whose daughter Emma had been a student in the College. Somewhat later she was a Trustee of the College for a short time. Her interest in education continued throughout her life, and her Alma Mater was remembered in her will by which she established a trust fund for "worthy students."

Mrs. Leidenger died at the age of seventy-nine on July 31, 1946.

### *Lillia Towles*

Miss Lillia Towles of Henderson, Kentucky, was the diligent and successful field secretary from 1911 to 1918. She worked so "hand-in-glove" with the president that she never seemed to have a close relation even with the students she was instrumental in bringing to the College, nor with the faculty members. She seemed a bit remote. However, she was a link between the students she influenced to come to Oxford and their hometowns and people, the only person in the College who knew both, even if in only a business way. Consequently those girls enjoyed an occasional contact with her and welcomed her when she would return to the College.

Not having much faith in the future of the College after the fall of 1917, she resigned in the spring of 1918. She missed the closing date of the College by about ten years.

### *Sallie C. Harding*

Mrs. Sallie C. Harding, a handsome, beautifully-dressed widow, a native Kentuckian, became the efficient and successful field representative of the College

## FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

in 1921 and served most faithfully until the College closed.

She, who had been out of touch with academic circles for years, entered into her new work with zest and enjoyed the challenging problems that were constantly arising. Nothing was too much trouble if she scented a new and desirable prospective student or something that would be advantageous to the College. The name of Harding became a synonym for improvement. She used ingenuity to the nth degree, and often her purse, to obtain something that would furnish an opportunity, a pleasure, or a comfort to the students. The College was a new home to her, and she became entirely wrapped up in it, ever on the alert for its advantage.

Her last project, one never to be finished, was the landscaping of the vacant lot directly across the street from the College.

### "PROPS"

#### *Robert Rusk*

At every successful public performance there are unseen, but vitally necessary, "props" behind the scenes.

One of the really important props of Oxford College for many years was an Irish character, Robert Rusk, who came to this country as a lad of nine or ten years, lived in Newburgh, New York, a few years, drifted to Ohio, and when about sixteen years old, entered the service of Dr. Robert Desha Morris. For more than thirty years he was the faithful steward in



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

winter, the carpet-sewer in summer, and the year-round adviser. He was known to all the students, who enjoyed his Irish garrulity.

In Ireland he was probably of the peasantry, poor and uneducated, but so skillful with his delicate hands that he made fine embroidery. One piece he made for Queen Victoria so pleased her that she sent him a medal which he prized highly for the rest of his life. All the education he ever had was received from the Morris family. Miss Agnes Morris taught him to write; consequently his chirography was much like hers—firm, clear, artistic and perfectly legible.

However effeminate he was, as indicated by his nervous walk and his skill with the needle, he was also so shrewd and alert that he was a veritable oracle and often was consulted by the Morris family.

When the Civil War broke out, many girls from the border states were sent to the Oxford Female College to remove them from danger. Dr. Morris was perplexed as to how to accommodate them. But the resourceful Robert said, "Just leave it to me. I can manage," and so he did by putting four to each big four-poster, sleeping crosswise! (Perhaps the then unheard of "double decker" would have been welcome.)

For long after his retirement, and when through his own thrift he owned a home, Robert was for Miss Agnes Morris a regular "Cyrano" in the sense of bringing in daily the village news. (So much of a character was he that people stopped to chat and contributed to his generous store of gossip.)

Robert dressed in a "Prince Albert," carefully buttoned, and a derby of ancient vintage, but he es-

## FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

chewed the use of a cane even for the sake of dignity. That quality he had without embellishment. Since he was related to William Brinsley Sheridan, the great actor, perhaps he inherited the ability to wear his clothes well and to carry himself with distinction. Then, too, he had Dr. Walker for a pattern and imitated him in his manners almost perfectly. He adored the whole Morris family, including Dr. Walker whom he called "Faye." As he grew up with the Morris girls, he always called Mrs. Walker "Lil" and Miss Agnes "Ag."

Coming from Ulster, Robert was a protestant and faithfully maintained his affiliation with the United Presbyterian church of Oxford in which he was a pillar. There in the early days he was the precentor and "raised the tunes" for all the Psalms with a tuning fork. The College girls thought it great fun to go to see and hear Robert.

Robert loved the College so sincerely that on hearing that the merger with Western College had been voted down, he lifted his palms together as in prayer, and raising his eyes to heaven, uttered from the depths of his heart, "Thank God!"

### *Peter Bruner*

If not "the spot of blackness that makes the colors felt," Peter Bruner, the expansive, the ubiquitous, the faithful, the guardian of the happiness of "his College girls," the general factotum, belonged to the College and was as much a part of it as its very walls. His greatest pleasure was in serving someone, for Peter had been born a slave in Kentucky. Did it storm, and

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

some day student was without her rubbers, it was Peter who went for them lest "his Miss----take cold."

Peter was married in the O. F. C., where his bride was a servant. When the College was moved to the old Institute building, and forced to close for a year because of the death of Dr. Morris, Peter readily found employment at Miami University. For such a servant as Peter, jobs were always waiting. Miami's president, Dr. William Oxley Thompson, knew Peter, and used to send his freshmen to him for a lecture on common sense. In time Peter returned to his first love, the College.

On March 10, 1893, Peter and his wife celebrated their silver wedding anniversary, the following invitation printed in silver having been issued to their friends:

1868.....B.....P.....1893

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bruner

Will be pleased to see you

Friday evening, March the 10th

At eight o'clock

The guests from the College were invited to call at the home in the afternoon, the colored friends in the evening.

As soon as classes closed in the afternoon, Dr. Walker escorted the senior class to Peter's home, while the faculty followed in groups. They were regaled with ice cream and cake; the colored friends in the evening were served with a fine supper.

So well did the entire faculty and students regard Peter that Miss Blanchard hurried off to Cincinnati to purchase the gifts of silver and glass they gener-

## FACULTY, FIELD SECRETARIES, "PROPS"

ously showered on him and his good wife. Fine gifts they were, and they pleased Peter tremendously; but the gift, the piece de resistance, was the silk hat Professor Johnson of Miami contributed. Peter wore this, when dressed up, as long as he lived. When he would meet a friend, a radiant smile and a generous sweep of his hat was his unfailing greeting. Peter died on April 6, 1934, aged ninety-three.

### *Mary Verka*

Just as Fardy De Vine was the king on the Miami campus in the '90's, replying to the President, who had ordered a change in the flowerbeds, "Well, I'll do it, for I'll be here when you're gone," (and he was) so was the tempestuous little Bohemian, Mrs. Mary Verka, queen and tyrant of the College kitchen in the 1900's. Petit woman that she was, she stormed and threatened regardless of her opponent's size. Vituperative herself, when in a temper, she was shocked and grieved if any College girl used anything but refined language, and she was quick to reprimand the guilty one. She wanted the girls, as if they were her own, to be perfect in speech and conduct. Let one be in trouble, her warm, generous and loving mother heart poured forth sympathy and tenderness.

Although her menus often included "slip down" or "tombstone"—chocolate pudding to the uninitiated—they also included date puddings from her own recipe and other sweets, so far as the limited allotment for the boarding department permitted. She loved to please the girls and would have feasted them, had it been possible, in spite of the extra work for herself.



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Uneducated as she was, she kept abreast of the news by having the daily newspaper read to her each evening. Had she had education, she could have been of considerable influence. She was a born narrator.

Although she loved every inch of the College, in a fit of ungoverned temper, when the President decided that the College authorities could run the College a little while longer, she left for the West, a move she deeply regretted in calmer moments. She soon returned to Oxford, with hair dyed and bobbed, to cook for a fraternity until age claimed its toll. Secretly she always hoped to be reinstated as the College culinary queen.



## IV. OXFORD WOMEN IN FIELDS OF SERVICE

SINCE one of the objects of the Oxford Female College was to "train young ladies for all the high and holy responsibilities devolving upon them in social and domestic life," it is of interest to note the various fields the Oxford women have entered.

### *Home Missionaries*

Julia F. Lathrop, 1851, wife of Mr. Henry T. Helm, Miami, 1853, was a recognized leader in the Ladies Presbyterian Missionary Work of the great Northwest. Her energy and enthusiasm inspired thousands of Presbyterian women to form organizations for effective church work.<sup>1</sup>

Emily A. Mollyneaux, 1858, and her husband, the Reverend Melancthon Hughes, Miami, 1864, engaged in missionary work for years in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where Mr. Hughes died in 1873.

Helen M. Bishop, ex-1873, did Bible work among

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1. Oxford Collegian, December, 1888.

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

the Italians in Chicago; in 1893-'94 she lived in the Olivet Mission in Chicago, where she worked without pecuniary remuneration in the kindergarten and other departments. In 1902, under the auspices of the Board of Home Missions, she became superintendent of a mission school in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Helen Keil, a former special student, taught in a mission school in Puerto Rica for three years in the late '90's.

Dorothy Robinson, '01, taught in a mission school in Asheville, North Carolina. There she met the Reverend Norman Schenck, whom she married. Together they went to Honolulu where Mr. Schenck was pastor of the Chinese church until compelled to retire because of failing health.

Elizabeth and Mary Janet Ruley, '19 and '21, under the auspices of the Episcopal church, taught for three consecutive years in the St. Andrew Priory in Honolulu. Elizabeth (Mrs. L. P. Miller) remained longer and now, after a period in the States, again has returned to Honolulu to the Iolani School, an Episcopal mission.

### *Foreign Missionaries*

Saphronia Z. Wilson (Mrs. H. H. Wagner), 1853, did not become a missionary, but for more than sixty years she was devoted to the cause of social and foreign missions, especially in the Far East. There is a mission in Judhapore, India, which bears her name. She was also identified with the W. C. T. U. and was one of the organizers of the Y. W. C. A. in her home city. She was a founder of the White Christian Association,

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

which aided delinquent girls, and for several years she maintained the Magdalene Home, which later merged with other similar agencies.

In June, 1925, although ninety years old, she made the round trip from St. Louis to Oxford alone, scorning a travelling companion. Known for her brilliant repartee and her flashing wit, which did not forsake her as a nonagenarian, she was a charming guest on her last visit to the College, where she did not waste time taking naps but left that to the younger generation. She died on February 9, 1929, in her home in St. Louis.

Mary L. McKee (Mrs. Lane), 1853, served in Shantung, China, and Mary Wilkin (Mrs. Jonathan Wilson), '56, in Siam.

While Ella Palmer (Mrs. Purviance), '79, did not go into the foreign field herself, her daughter Helen did. Perhaps the missionary spirit, which was so strongly emphasized in the College in the '70's, filtered through to the daughter. Mrs. Purviance, "a woman who was the plain salt of the earth," was determined that daughter Helen should have a college education. But when daughter ran away from home twice and joined the Salvation Army, her mother desisted. In time she became proud of her Salvation Army lassie. In the first World War the Red Cross would not serve the boys in France anything at night; so the Salvation Army, with Helen in the lead, did. She became known as the "Do-nut and Coffee girl," and before the war was over, she had made a million doughnuts.

E. Capitolia Hamilton, ex-'81, was "a bit careless



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

in her appearance, and did not know the meaning of the word study when in college," but she was outstanding in her later accomplishments. After graduating, she married Dr. L. M. Henry, a successful and prosperous physician. Both were members of the United Presbyterian church. "Called to the foreign field from what he thought was his death-bed," Dr. Henry sold all his possessions, and they sailed for Egypt. There they put all they had into establishing a mission at Assiut, where they were pioneers in the mission field. Finally the United Presbyterian church took cognizance of their highly successful work and supported the mission. Dr. and Mrs. Henry were in charge of this mission for over thirty-five years. It was through their personal savings, sacrifices, and efforts that a fine, large hospital and mission are in operation in that city today. The hospital, known as "The Assiut Hospital," is more often spoken of among the Egyptians as "The Hospital of Henry." Mrs. Henry died in Assiut on January 23, 1939.

Anna A. Milligan, L.H.D., in her story of "Dr. Henry of Assiut" says of this strong, powerful man who had worked so unceasingly not only for the bodies, but for the souls of the Egyptians: "Dr. Henry was a pathetic figure in his weakness without Mrs. Henry. They were an extremely devoted couple." In his great loneliness, and at the age of eighty-five, he crossed the ocean to see his children and sister, intending to go back to Assiut. He died on October 3, 1942, in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

Emma P. Hays, '85, after teaching two years, and taking a postgraduate course in Wellesley College,

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

sailed for Japan in December, 1888, under the direction of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. She taught in Graham Seminary in Tokyo.

Jean Richardson, '86, as the twenty-one-year-old bride of the Reverend E. G. Ritchie,<sup>1</sup> sailed for China in the fall of 1889. In the first year she lost her little son and her husband. She stayed on and did the work her husband had planned to do.

Five years later she married the Reverend William Hill Lingle, who took her to South China, where the natives saw a foreign woman for the first time. There she had to display her unbound feet. It was in Lienchow that Mrs. Lingle organized a boarding school for forty Mandarin-speaking boys. Later she and her husband established a school for boys in Siangtan, where Mrs. Lingle was the principal. Here she had to use every trick she knew because of the difficult classification and organization of the students. As her reputation grew, it was not unusual for a father or an uncle to advise his boy "to try and learn everything from Teacher-Mother Lingle—except her religion." Still later she had charge of a boys' primary school which was housed in an old morgue in the presence of forty coffins!

At this same time she began to teach in the Fuh Siang high school for girls. She also organized a primary school for girls but soon turned this over to another. Then the ascension to power of the Kuomintang closed Fuh Siang for two years. Reopened, it ran for two years and when the Communist Army

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1. Son of Mary H. Gray, '54.

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

destroyed and looted it, as well as burning the Lingle home and looting all possessions, Mr. Lingle barely escaped with his life. Undaunted, Mrs. Lingle, with the aid of Mr. Tsiang Leo, set up a new Fuh Siang in a small, borrowed building in Wuchang, "expecting probably seventy girls. Actually over one hundred made the long trek to Wuchang," where they were all crowded into this one small building.

Here they stayed one semester before returning to the original home of the school in Changsha. But it was a return to utter desolation. Again it was Mrs. Lingle's indomitable spirit that helped to rebuild the school, to bring its standard up so that for the first time its graduates could enter "Yale of China" in the premedical school as freshmen.

Oxford College adopted Mrs. Lingle's high school and, for several years prior to 1928, contributed funds to help her in her work.

Rounding out forty-three years in China, the Lingles retired in 1932 and returned to the United States. Mrs. Lingle, now a widow, lives in Pasadena where she entertains from time to time the Oxford College Club of Southern California and attends its meetings when possible.

In the '80's, great stress was laid on missionary work. Many essays were written on the subject. The speakers brought to the College almost invariably talked on the foreign missionary field, and with telling effect. In 1891 the Oxford College girls sent \$75 to a memorial fund for a school house in Barranquilla. It was suggested that the money be used for fitting doors and windows in a special room, the door of

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

which should bear a brass plate with the inscription:

OXFORD COLLEGE

In Honor Of

ADDIE RAMSEY

Miss Ramsey had not stayed to graduate with her class in 1891 but had answered the call to the foreign field. She arrived in South America August 1, 1889, and died three weeks later of yellow fever.

Bertha V. Finley, '91, was a descendant of a strong Scotch-Presbyterian family whose members held positions of honor and eminence.

In 1898 she went to Pyeng Yang, Korea, to take up work in foreign missions. Immediately upon arrival, she married her high school classmate, the Reverend William B. Hunt. To them were born a daughter and a son. Even with the care of her children and her household, she found time to teach large Bible classes for women and to give lessons in singing and hygiene. She was also an assistant in an academy for boys and translated portions of the Bible into the Korean tongue. A classmate said of her: "She was gentle, and winning, modest in bearing, an enthusiastic student and a whole-hearted friend."

In April, 1905, the Hunts were granted a furlough. They expected to sail for home about July 1 and on returning to be assigned to a new station. Somehow in the preparations for the expected trip, Mrs. Hunt contracted a throat ailment which was not at first considered serious, but which suddenly caused her death on May 15, 1905. "She was laid to rest in a beautiful spot a mile from her home, borne thither on the shoulders of the young men whom she



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

had taught, and followed by a procession a mile and a half long—not of horses and carriages, but of human beings, walking, sorrowful fellow-beings among whom she had lived and for whom she had laid down her life.”

Immediately after the first World War, the great need of Christian workers in India so touched the heart of Icy Virginia Lee Shaver, '17, that she gave her services under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal church. For three years she taught English in the Webb Memorial High School in Baroda, India. Later she returned to serve as its principal. This school was largely for Christians but non-Christians also attended. While it was supported chiefly by the Methodist church, other protestant churches and the English and Baroda governments contributed to its maintenance. After travelling around the world twice, and hunting big game in Africa, Miss Shaver returned to teach Uncle Sam's high-school students, first in Florida, and now for a number of years in her native state of Indiana.

Pearl Rehorst, '16, Miami, '33, spent one summer in George's Cove, Labrador, at Dr. Grenfell's Mission House. There she taught and did everything from entertaining Sir Wilfred Grenfell to pouring oil of cloves into cavities of aching teeth and satisfying the curiosity of the natives about the “white outsider.”

Chesta Mitchell, '12, was in Estonia as Y. W. C. A. National Advisory Secretary from 1930 to 1932. She was under the auspices of the National Board of the Y. W. C. A. of the United States of America and was consultant and adviser to the local Y's and their Na-

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

tional Committee. While her headquarters were in the city of Talinn, she travelled to other towns. On the way home in 1932, she worked in the World's Y. W. C. A. office in Geneva, Switzerland for several weeks as a member of the World's Staff. Since returning to the States she has continued her Y work in various cities.

### *Founders of Schools*

When death claimed Marietta Hodges, '59, on April 12, 1930, in her ninety-seventh year, it robbed the world of one intensely interested in young people. It closed a colorful and wonderfully useful life that even severe deafness and near-blindness had not overwhelmed, just somewhat handicapped.

Soon after graduation her public career began. She was mothering two nieces in San Antonio. Although a Northerner, she was the wife of Robert Faulconer, a Virginian, and was in full charge of San Antonio Female College because all of the men had gone to the Civil War. To this college she gave her best efforts to sustaining and building up the school that became a flourishing institution later known as Westmoreland.

Shortly before the close of the war, she was relieved of the college duties. By this time she was a widow. Longing for the North and a visit with her aged mother in Illinois, she set out with her small daughter for New York City via Mexico and Cuba, a long and perilous journey. Arriving in New York, she immediately went to Washington to pass Lincoln's bier with the weeping multitudes. Thence she proceeded to Indianapolis and soon was invited by Dr.

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Morris to join the O. F. C. faculty. (She had been assistant in mathematics and language, 1858-1859.) War and death had racked her, and she had no thought then of returning to the educational field.

She, however, early excelled in literary attainments and from 1865 on was a constant writer. For many years she edited two magazines: one for children, *Zion's Hope*, and one for youth, *Autumn Leaves*, for a publishing house of the church of which she had become a member — the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She had changed from the loyal Methodist girl who had attended a Presbyterian college.

In time she married Samuel F. Walker, and eventually they built a home she loved on the prairie at Lamoni, Iowa.

"Early in this time on the Iowa farm," she said, "I seemed awakened from a long sleep by the spirit with which I had been imbued at Oxford, and, unknowingly, had brought with me to the wide-stretching prairies of Iowa.

"I recognized the promptings of that spirit as due in part to the teachings of my beloved friend and preceptor, the Reverend John Witherspoon Scott, D. D., President<sup>1</sup> of O. F. C., a more generous, liberal minister and loving-hearted man I believe never lived. Into my heart came the strong desire to see a school similar to my Alma Mater established upon the broad top of the rolling hills of our own farm among the violets and breezes of our own Iowa prairies."

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1. From her college days on to the end of Dr. Scott's life, Mrs. Walker had carried on a correspondence with him.

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Consequently she gave herself and her friends, who were in any way influential, little rest until Graceland College opened its doors to the young of her church and all who wished to enter. She gave twenty acres of her little farm to form a part of the ground upon which Graceland College was builded. "My perseverance," she continued, "and hopes and the labors of others were abundantly rewarded in seeing Graceland College take her place as a fully accredited Junior College loved by thousands of students and recognized as an outstanding institution of learning in its class. The spirit which moves in Graceland and in her student body, the spirit of consecration to the accomplishment of the great work of blessing humanity through the exercise of trained heart and mind and body, helps me to feel that these youths are catching in great measure the inspiration prevalent so many years ago at Oxford."

Among Mrs. Walker's published books are:

"With the Church in an Early Day"

"The Indian Maiden"

"Joan of Arc"

"Fireside Talks with Our Girls"

Mrs. Walker was the originator and life-long exponent of home and child welfare in her church.

When the magazine *Autumn Leaves* was forty-one years old, the publishing house changed its name to *Vision*. The first number of *Vision* was dedicated to Mrs. Walker:

To Marietta Walker —  
pioneer editor and leader in  
the interests of youth,  
to whose courage and  
foresight the existence of



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this magazine is in great  
measure due—this first  
number of VISION is  
affectionately dedicated  
— The Editors

Lillian Aldrich Thayer was in truth an Oxford College girl whose whole education was centered in the College. As a child she entered the preparatory department of the College going on to graduation with honors in 1894.

After she was graduated, her interests centered in her love of music. At different times she was a student of Charles Adams, A. Rubenstein, Neidlinger and D'Angelo Bergh. From 1901 to June, 1910, she taught voice culture in the College. The summer of 1903 she taught in Miami's summer term. During those nine years she presented her pupils in many sacred concerts and recitals. Be the weather what it might, the music lovers of Oxford went through snow, slush and ice to hear her pupils sing, so tirelessly and artistically had she worked with them.

In June, 1910, Miss Thayer was granted a year's leave of absence to study with Herr Preuse in Munich. On returning to this country, she joined the Cincinnati Conservatory faculty, an association she maintained until her health broke fifteen months before her death.

In 1923, through Miss Thayer's efforts in collecting people blessed with musical talent, but unblessed with funds, a heterogeneous group, "with all its delightful incongruities," met in the basement studios of the Wurlitzer Company of Cincinnati and formed the nucleus of the Cincinnati Settlement School of

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Music. This project grew so rapidly that five different branches were established to care for the flood of applications. In 1931, these branches gave 3,041 lessons. "Miss Thayer was the inspiration, the power, the very essence and life of the movement that owed its being and continuous existence to her vision and courage."

Alfred Segal of the *Cincinnati Post* called Miss Thayer "The Finder of Voices." "She looks for them in obscure places and cultivates them to make them beautifully heard in the world. She found the voice of Walter Mitchell, the eleven-year-old colored boy in Cincinnati's west end, and taught it to sing to God in the church. It rose in the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul like the voice of golden bells, and it is said God took no account of the colored child singing to Him in the white church. She found the voice of the boy, Adrian Gory, and in her school it was taught to sing in the choir of the Episcopal church of the Advent in Walnut Hills." Although a teacher of many who became notable artists, she saw that "the greater glory is not for the teacher of great opera singers, but for the one who can teach many of the humbler voices of the world to make themselves heard."

The passing of Lillian Aldrich Thayer in Oxford on March 5, 1939, marked the close of a beautiful life whose influence goes on in untold ways. A negro lad whom she had encouraged wrote: "Such friends as she are so rare that she can never be replaced. Certainly Heaven is a more beautiful place with Miss Thayer there, but I do think that Heaven needed her less than we do!" The Puerto Rican boy, now the choir director and organist in St. Mary's Cathedral, Covington, Ken-

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tucky, Mr. Miguel Mullert, wrote: "The radiance of her unselfish life enfolded all creeds and races. Her indomitable spirit of helping others reached across the ocean and brought me to America, where I have had happiness and success . . . brings pleasant memories of the undying Lillian Aldrich Thayer, whose fruits of kindness are rooted so well, that those she loved are reaping great treasures for her unselfish efforts. Be confident in those of us who remember her as she really was; and she shall always be honored." In *Musical America* Flossie Bell Holt said: "A strong personality, a keen understanding, subdued by a deep sympathy described Lillian Aldrich Thayer."

One who loved and knew her intimately said: "It seems to me that no one could enter the place that was hers, cross the threshold of her studio, even in a crowded commercial hotel, without the sense of stepping into another world, a world whose atmosphere was free from all discord and alive with sympathy, beauty and love.

"Music was to her something more than melodious sound. It was an ineffable expression transcending any other form of beauty and truth. She responded to it from her earliest childhood and came at last to use it as the medium whereby she reached out to all those who were weary and heavy laden, to those who were perplexed and in sorrow, and through music brought them into her world, the world she herself had created, a world not in the least a solemn world, but a joyous place where laughter belonged and pleasant gaieties."

Seven years after the death of Miss Thayer, *Etude*, in April, 1946, published an article which Mr.

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Joseph W. Clokey, the well-known American composer, found among her papers. The article, "Emphasizing Overtones in Voice Study," was a part of a booklet on singing she was engaged in writing at the time of her death.

### *Deans*

Lillian Merrill Walker, '88, widow of Dr. Milo Scott Walker, a relative of Dr. Faye Walker, was on the staff of Wooster University<sup>1</sup> for five years. For one year she was house manager at Oxford College. Subsequently she joined the staff of Millikin University, where she served for nineteen years. The following tribute was written by a Millikin colleague, Mr. C. W. Dyer:

"When Mrs. Lillian Merrill Walker came to Millikin University, she brought with her the queenly virtues of a Christian mother. She was endowed by birth, education and experience with the qualities essential to success in the dual position of dean of women and house-mother in our dormitory for women, Ashton Hall. She enjoyed the confidence of the founders and administrators of the University as well as of the faculty and students. Many mothers recall with pride and admiration the days when they were members of her 'family' at Millikin. Young men, too, respected and honored Mrs. Walker for her fairness and firmness." On the occasion of her death *The Decatur News* said she could anticipate and correct trouble or difficulty without a detective.

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1. Now the College of Wooster.



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She was always loyal to constituted authority, considerate of those with whom she differed, courteous and sympathetic though never compromising with wrong. A host rise up and call her blessed.

Mrs. Walker retired in 1931. She died on May 12, 1939, from a cerebral hemorrhage and was buried at Murdock, Ohio, her girlhood hometown.

Elizabeth Hamilton was granted the A.B. degree with honors from Oxford College in 1895 as well as a degree from the School of Music where she had majored in piano. She did graduate work at Miami and the University of Chicago. In January, 1897, she returned to the College to teach Greek and English for eight and one-half years. The last year she served as the dean.

In 1905, she became Miami's First Lady when she accepted the newly-created chair of Dean of Women and Assistant Professor of Greek. Later she was made Assistant Professor of English. Except for two Sabbatical leaves, she occupied the dean's chair with distinction continuously for forty years. This long tenure of office was possible by reason of her scholarship, her innate gracious dignity, her diplomatic methods of procedure, her refined and cultured tactfulness and her never failing sense of humor.

Western College took note of Miss Hamilton's success by conferring the LL.D. degree upon her at its Commencement exercises in 1934. Miami expressed its appreciation of her scholarship by electing her to membership in its chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. During Commencement week at Miami in 1943 the Delta Zeta sorority, as a part of the celebration of the forti-

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eth anniversary of its founding, unveiled in North Hall<sup>1</sup> an oil portrait of her presented by the National Council of the sorority.

Miss Hamilton's leaves were spent in travelling, first in the United States, then in Europe, then in a trip around the world, and finally in touring South America. On each trip she visited and studied the procedures of colleges.

These travels awakened in Miss Hamilton a deep concern for "eager and worthy young women students in other lands." She dreamed of fellowships to be awarded to them through the A. A. U. W. of this land. Her zeal and her sincere belief in such fellowships led to her election to the State (Ohio) Fellowship chairmanship from 1929 to 1937 when she became the State President. On returning from South America she again became State Fellowship chairman, but "only till the goal, \$40,000 was in sight. She was the inspiration and guiding star for the workers." Consequently it was fitting that the executive board of the Ohio Division of the A. A. U. W. in June, 1945, name the new Ohio International Study Grant in her honor.

Besides serving the State Division, Miss Hamilton has been active for years in the Oxford Branch of the A. A. U. W. and has held various offices. Twice she was president of the local College Club and was one of the promoters of its reorganization into a branch of the A. A. U. W. in 1920. Twice she has served as president of the Oxford College Alumnae Association.

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1. Officially named Hamilton Hall by the Board of Trustees of Miami University, October, 1948.

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She has been chairman of the University section of the National Association of Deans of Women and president of the Ohio Association of the same organization. She has also served her church, both as organist and officer. She was a member of "a Council of One Hundred Women at the National Assembly of the Presbyterian church in 1929 and helped to formulate the policies that gave women wider participation in the government of that denomination."

When retiring in 1945, Miss Hamilton carried with her the boundless good wishes, respect and affection of thousands of "girls" who had called her dean, counselor, and friend. At the Commencement exercises, Dean Alderman, in presenting her for the degree, Doctor of Laws, said in part:

"Miami University is proud of the part that Dean Hamilton has had in the shaping of broad educational policies that have had far-reaching effects on the women in American colleges. The conferring of this degree is intended to suggest to Dean Hamilton the admiration and affection in which she is held by those who are to be the poorer because of her retirement."

Sara Norris, a native of Oxford, took her A.B. with first classical honors from Oxford College in 1896. Her M.A. was from the University of Wisconsin in 1926, and she, except for the dissertation, completed the work for a Ph.D. in Spanish. She did additional work in Miami, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Butler University, and had one year, 1915-1916, at the Institute of Musical Art in New York City.

Miss Norris was trained in the classics, but she was

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also musically educated, and her first teaching was of music in Miami University. When Miami turned over all of its applied music to Oxford College, 1908 to 1910, she became a regular member of the College faculty for that period and then returned to Miami for the next five years. During the college year, 1916-'17, she began her career as a dean and was acting dean at Miami while the regular incumbent was on a leave.

Miss Norris was reared in a strict Christian atmosphere and for years was the organist in the local Methodist church. Consequently it was only natural that she should answer the call to become a missionary and go to Santiago, Chile, for five years, 1917 to 1922. There she was first a teacher of music, then Directora of the Hogar Anglo-Chileno.

She returned to the States in 1922 and for one year was Assistant to the President of Tudor Hall for Girls in Indianapolis. From 1923 to 1925 she was dean of women at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Then followed a period of study at the end of which she was one year dean of women at Coe College.

In 1930 she was appointed Dean of Women at State Teachers College in Mankato, Minnesota, remaining in that position until her retirement in June, 1947, still young in spirit and full of vigor.

In addition to her scholastic duties, Miss Norris was secretary, then president of the Women's Auxiliary to the American Society of Chile (all American). For six years she was on the Minnesota State Board of the A. A. U. W. in various positions, and for two years she was president of the Mankato Branch of the A. A. U. W. She also served for years on Mankato's



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State Board of Women's League for International Peace and Freedom. In the Centenary Methodist church of Mankato, she was the organist for four years and the Church School superintendent.

Miss Norris was a healthy, joyous, fun-loving girl possessed of a fine mind, a quick tongue, and musical talent. She was destined to succeed.

At the time of her retirement the *Mankato Free Press* paid her tribute, part of which follows:

"Typical of Miss Norris, she spoke not of her own problems but of those of the young women whose counselor, and advisor and leader she had been for the past decade and a half. You were impressed with her broad understanding and sympathy for these students; with her appreciation of the problems and limitations that had to be met in caring for them; with her acceptance of the responsibility. It was a thoughtful, understanding discussion of one well adapted, and unusually well equipped to guide and aid and direct youth in an age when such leadership is rare and difficult to obtain. . . .

"The hundreds of young women, who have benefitted by her counsel and guidance, appreciate better than any one else just how much she has contributed to the building of character and to the elevation of all that is best and worth-while in young womanhood. The high esteem in which they have unanimously held her is proof of their appreciation.

"Miss Norris leaves her post at the College with the satisfaction of a service well and ably performed and with the realization that not merely students and the College faculty, but the entire Southern Minne-

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sota community accepts her retirement with deep regret."

Miss Norris returned to Oxford and her ancestral home, retired, but not inactive.

Dorothy Gebauer, '16, was a girl with a good mind, warm heart, understanding and sympathy. She was reared in a home of fine atmosphere in Henderson, Kentucky, where Christianity was a matter of everyday living and where good cheer abounded. As a student she was an earnest Y. W. C. A. worker.

After she was graduated, she taught in high schools in Ohio and Indiana. Then came an opportunity to be the dean of women at Wilmington College. This position opened for her a new phase of educational work, a challenging one. To equip herself better for this particular type of service, she took training at Teachers College in Columbia University, 1926-'27. The following nine years she was assistant dean of women at the University of Texas, and since 1936 she has been the highly successful and esteemed dean.

She has served as president of the Texas Association of Deans of Women, chairman of the University section, vice-president and president of the National Association of Deans of Women. Her membership in professional organizations includes A. A. U. W., Texas Personnel Conference, League of Women Voters, Mortar Board, Delta Kappa Gamma and Pi Lambda Theta.

Margaret Maddox, '16, received some of her training in managing girls when she was the efficient president of the O. C. student government in her senior year. For a number of years she was dean in Flint

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Junior College. She resigned the position to work on her doctorate in history at the University of Chicago and to do some teaching and research work for the University.

Alice Burbank (Mrs. Robert P. Rhoads), ex-'23, A.B. and A.M. Columbia University, a student in Oxford, England, and a graduate student working on her Ph.D., was assistant dean at Barnard College until she asked for a leave to work more intensively on her doctorate.

### *Teachers*

Oxford College girls have occupied teaching positions from a one-room rural school in the mountains, where every bit of ingenuity under the sun had to be practiced, to, and including, Miami University, Allegheny College, Hood College, Wallace Conservatory of Music, Marion College, Monmouth College, Presbyterian Training School of Chicago, Blairsville College for Women, Glendale College, La Grange College, University of Florida, Cornell University, Washington State Normal, Winthrop College, Wooster College, Temple University, Chicasaw College (Tenn.), Presbyterian College (Miss.), Rogersville College (Tenn.), a woman's college in Santiago, Chile, and Government Indian schools.

In public schools O. C. women have taught in many cities, notably Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Brooklyn, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Akron, Toledo, Chicago, and New York, and in occupied Germany.

As typical of the girls who have become outstanding teachers, the following have been selected:

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It was Jennie Logue, 1860, who, given hospitality in the Oxford Female Institute when the Western Female Seminary burned, stayed to graduate and then teach for seven years in the Institute and seven more in the O. F. C. For the last five years in the O. F. C. she was the Lady Principal. She then left to become lady principal and professor of English in Monmouth College, where she endeared herself to the College and community for fourteen years until she married the Reverend Dr. W. T. Campbell. After seven years, she returned to Monmouth to teach five more years. Then she and her husband turned to home missionary work in Kansas City and Pueblo for three and one-half years, when they again returned to Monmouth.

For eleven years Mrs. Campbell was on the Monmouth school board, six of which she was the president. She was also president of the City Hospital Society and of the local W. C. T. U. and was active in the church for sixty-two years. She contributed to *The Woman's Missionary Magazine* and other periodicals. A Monmouth paper said: "Mrs. Campbell was very highly esteemed by all who knew her during her days as a teacher in Monmouth College. We know of no Monmouth woman who was more highly thought of." Another publication declared, "she was regarded as the most distinguished lady in the U. P. church in the United States." Mrs. Campbell died on March 12, 1938, in her ninety-fourth year and was buried in the Monmouth Cemetery.

One morning in 1881, when Hardy Jackson, '77, was to begin her teaching in the public schools of Oxford, Ohio, she left her mother's arms with the



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good-bye that was to be engraved in her memory and on her heart forever: "Hardy, I prayed for you last night. I asked that God keep you kind and just; that your pupils love you and that you love your pupils. Have no fear daughter, for God will guide you."

How many times her mother's prayer was answered in the next twenty-five years can best be estimated by the number of her pupils in Oxford, in Urbana, and in Miamisburg, who greatly loved and respected her.

Forty-one years after she had held her last class in Miamisburg and on the occasion of her eighty-ninth birthday, October 2, 1947, in Bismarck, North Dakota, she received not tinselled cards, nor yet formal notes, but two and three-page letters from thirty of her boys and girls, sole survivors of a class of forty. These letters from attorneys, bankers, railroad executives, pastors, an athletic coach, housewives, wives of politically important personages, farmers and plantation owners, were all in the same tone: "Miss Hardy, I remember you, and I love you." Was there ever a better, a more satisfying birthday celebration? Who will dispute "she was one of the best loved teachers in all the state of Ohio," or that "she was not only a teacher, but a friend"? She died on February 9, 1948, in Bismarck and was buried in Oxford.

"Another product of O. F. C. was that unusual and delightful Eleanor Ferguson Deem of the class of '85," declared Mrs. Marion Thayer MacMillan. "After Miss Deem graduated she taught in the College for several years. Her highly individualized speech and manner were a combination of graciousness and dig-

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nity. Her fine character and talents made her a beloved and outstanding teacher both in the College and later in St. Paul, where she made a place for herself in both the professional and social life." At the time of her retirement, the St. Paul newspapers paid her great tribute. Even in retirement she was not necessarily inactive. As late as 1946 she took the leading role in a one-act play, "A Sunny Morning," that the St. Paul Century Club presented.

In the Okolona High School in Louisville, there hangs a bronze tablet as a memorial to Edith Wood's fifteen years' teaching of mathematics in the school she helped to found. The Edith Wood Mathematics Award is given each year to the best senior student. The advent of the war and restricted travel forced Miss Wood, '24, to accept a teaching position in her home town, Anchorage, Kentucky, where she is also making a name for herself. She is regarded as one of the greatest teachers in the state of Kentucky.

Le Nore Hansell, '28, was the excellent and last president of student government at O. C. Her fellow students had confidence in her for she was emotionally stable, kind, generous and sympathetic and, at the same time, just. Perhaps her experience in teaching two years in a grade school, between her sophomore and junior years at college, contributed to her ability to administer student affairs successfully. Her enthusiasm for good work was so sincere that she naturally instilled it in her students and unconsciously built up in them deep respect.

While her career covered only eight years, so fine had been her teaching, that immediately upon her

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death, the class of 1935 in Sheldon, Illinois, high school established a memorial to her—a trophy known as the Hansell cup. This cup is presented each year to the senior who in three years' study of history has had the highest average. The class elected to award honors in history because it was her chosen subject.

### *Writers*

From the early schools down to and through The Oxford College for Women, the most widely-known, quick-witted, daring, unafraid-of-any-scheme-man-could-devise, captivating belle to become a writer of distinction was Cynthia Charlotte Moon<sup>1</sup> more commonly called "Lottie Moon." She could, and did, desert one man at the altar with a decisive reply; she was engaged to twelve men at a time; she married a future judge on the bench, proving to her father she *could* "marry a man with brains"; she was a successful Confederate spy telling tales of a "pore darlin' husband at the front" or posing as a wealthy English invalid; she was the mother of a future rector, and in her middle years she became the special correspondent in Paris and London for the *New York World*, and under the nom de plume of Charles M. Clay (using her own initials) become the author of "How She Came into Her Kingdom," "Baby Rue," and "The Modern Hagar." She also became a much sought-after lecturer and a translator of French novels. But in the sixty-sixth year of her extraordinary and colorful life she met one adversary she could not out-wit

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1. See "Old Oxford Houses"

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and succumbed in her son's rectory in Philadelphia, November 20, 1895.

Jennie Brooks, '71, blessed with a scintillating wit, a keen sense of humor, an inimitable and quaint style, contributed to the columns of *The Interior*, *The New York Independent*, *St. Nicholas*, the McClure Syndicate, *Harper's Magazine* and *The Western Christian Advocate*. She also published a book, "Under Oxford Trees." Her love of nature, especially bird life, dominated her facile pen. She declared she could not write fiction, but she wrote reams about "jay bird parties." No somber garb appealed to her. She loved colors, red in particular, but her artistic taste knew when and how to blend them even when she reached "the years of discretion."

Elizabeth Rusk (Mrs. Fred J. Carr), '90, was associated with the *Toledo Blade*. She wrote the first regular children's column, which she called "Uncle Jerry's Bedtime Story." She also wrote many poems and was interested in the old North Toledo Settlement House.

Gertrude McMillan (Mrs. C. F. Bray), '90, was a successful writer of short stories, many of which appeared in *The Chautauquan*.

Virginia Hill Smith, a day student of the early '90's, wrote under the pen name of Lloyd Logan "My Life with a Pat of Butter."

Anna Cellars (Mrs. R. C. Wilson), '02, a writer of verse, was invited to be a member of the Minnesota League of Poets. She has had many poems published in various papers and magazines.

Lucy Lowry, '05, compiled "Flood Stories" by



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Shawnee high school girls, written in her grammar and composition class in Louisville. She is the author of "Analysis and Interpretation of Endymion."

Lorene Butler, '04, wrote articles and a book on nature study.

Evelyn Crady (Mrs. Adams), '05, a teacher, social worker, traveler, guest speaker, chairman of various projects, researcher, book reviewer for the Louisville *Courier Journal* has written many broadcasts for numerous drives and frequently contributed to the *Filson Club Quarterly*. After ten years of exhaustive research she published "American Indian Education."

Mazie Malone (Mrs. Saunders), '06, head of Mosher-Jordan Halls at Ann Arbor, has contributed two articles to the *Christian Science Monitor*, one on "The North Woods" and another on "Hoosiers." An article about her grandfather's home in Indiana was published in a Danville, Illinois, paper.

Elizabeth Collette, A.B., '10, A.M., O. S. U, Ph.D. New York University, was for years a teacher of English in Pittsburgh's Peabody High School. Before retirement, she wrote "Journey to the Promised Land," which is the journal of her paternal ancestors from New Jersey to Lebanon, Ohio, and "Highroad to English Literature," a book designed to help high-school students to an intelligent and enjoyable reading of English Literature. Her next literary product has been in collaboration with Professors Cross and Stauffer of Chicago — "The World in Literature" which will eventually comprise four books. The first two — "Within the Americas" and "Beyond the Seas" — are off the press.

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Dr. Collette is decidedly a "daughter of the house," for one grandmother, Ellen Craven, attended the early school conducted by the Misses North, one grandfather was on the first board of trustees at Miami, and another was graduated in 1830.

Mary Willis Miller (Mrs. Arthur Shuey), '13, has contributed to New Orleans papers; written articles on Mexico and on wrought iron for trade journals, contributed verse and short stories to more than fifty magazines and had poems published in *Braithwaite's Anthology* and an article on "Cabinet Makers" in the magazine, *Antiques*. She also has written for the *Dearborn Independent*. The first part of "Young Stanley" was published in the *Southwest Review* in 1940.

May Hollis (Mrs. Felix Siegl), '16, Ph.D. Columbia, published a treatise on education after research in Europe.

Merab Eberle, '16, art, music and literary editor of the *Dayton Herald* and the *Sunday Journal Herald* writes editorials on nature and poems for the *North American Review*, *The Churchman*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *English Poetry Review*, and the *Christian Century*.

Helen Elliott, '16, A.M. University of Indiana, was cited in "Women of Indiana" as secretary of the New Harmony Memorial Commission, member of the Board of Governors of the Indiana Pioneer Society, vice-president of the Indiana Historical Society and author of historical articles for the *Indiana Magazine of History*. Miss Elliott has given numerous lectures on historical subjects. She is a member of the League

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of American Pen Women and now is in retirement after having taught for many years in the Arsenal Technical High School of Indianapolis.

Sylvia Fuson (Mrs. Bruce Ferguson), '17, A.M. Ohio State University, has published "Seed Treatment of Wheat," "A Century of College Women in Ohio," and "The Virginia-Ohio Fusons." In collaboration with Professor Bruce Fink she wrote "Ascomycetes New to Flora of Indiana" and an arrangement of "Ascomycetes Known to Indiana." She has taught botany, done some practical work in landscape gardening, and been active in many local drives.

Ruth Preston, '21, a teacher in Portsmouth, Ohio, high school has had poems published in *Anthology of College Verse*.

Mildred Ellen Taylor, '21, A.M. and Ph.D., University of Illinois, head of the mathematics department at Mary Baldwin College, published a treatise on mathematics.

Kate Englehart (Mrs. Ralph S. Clark), '22, prior to her marriage, was associated with the F. A. Owen Publishing Company of Rochester, New York. She contributed editorials, music and verse. She has also contributed to educational magazines.

L. Marguerite House, '24, A.M. Northwestern, director of music at Shorewood high school in Milwaukee, wrote two work books on music fundamentals—"My Music Book," two books on musical appreciation, a religious operetta, "The New Dawn," based on the Easter theme; "Professor Owl," an operetta for intermediate grade pupils; two chorus numbers, "Russian Cavalry Song," adapted for high school chorus

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from the famous "Meadowlands," and an original song, "Drowsy Tune"; a song for girls' glee clubs, "Above All Else, My Country," and has arranged musical masterpieces suitable for high school rendition, such as Tchaikovsky's "Forest Prince," Schubert's "Rosamunde," and Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" which she calls "Masquerade in Vienna." She has also written a fantasy, "Sliding Down a Moonbeam."

Edith Wood, '24, after fifteen years of research wrote "Middletown Days and Deeds," the story of one hundred and fifty years of living in an old Kentucky town. In collaboration with the genealogical society, which she organized in her high school, she wrote "A Short History of Old Stone Inn, Simpsonville, Kentucky"—one of the earliest taverns in Kentucky.

Evelyn Nixon (Mrs. Jardine), ex-'24, a special student in the College, M.T. (ASCP) Boston Dispensary, principal of the training school for medical technologists in the Mary Hitchcock Hospital, Hanover, New Hampshire, is the author of "A New Technique for the Collection of Oxalated Blood" and "Guide for Teachers of Medical Technology." She has served as president of the American Society of Medical Technologists and of the New Hampshire Society of Laboratory and Clinical Medical Technologists.

Elsie Katterjohn, '27, A.M. Iowa, for years a teacher in Waukegan, Illinois, has had poems, notably "Church Bells," published in the leading magazines and in an anthology of verse. She has been the sponsor of high school annuals which have steadily won first place in competition.



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Bessie Watson, '27, is a reporter on the *Indianapolis News*. During World War II, she wrote comedy skits for the W. O. S. L. camp shows. She has also written poems under the pen name of "Elizabeth Aiken."

### *O. C. Girls in Public Life*

Of the O. C. women who have helped to mould the careers of men of importance, Caroline Scott, 1852, who became the wife of Benjamin Harrison, the twenty-third president of the United States, is the most distinguished.

The daughter of aristocratic Dr. John Witherspoon Scott, president of O. F. C., she was accustomed to servants and the easy way of living. Nevertheless, she married her Miami suitor, even though he was only a struggling young lawyer. She shared with him his plain living, first on a farm, and then in a modest home in Indianapolis, where he hung out his first shingle. There in the early years she did her own work, and there the future president sawed wood for their stove and filled the water buckets each morning before going to his office.

As a college girl she has been described as "vivacious, light-hearted; not exactly beautiful, but handsome in face, and form, amiable, quick-witted, sensible and good. Every one loved her for her gentle and lovable character." General Lew Wallace said of her: "... intelligent, witty, attractive, had all the qualities that entered into the composition of a perfect woman," and a perfect woman she became. Colonel Edwin Emerson, who carried his fraternity's congrat-

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

ulations to his Phi Delta Theta brother upon Harrison's election to the presidency of the United States, came back with the verdict that "Mrs. Harrison was petite and pretty."

That Caroline Scott was no "clinging vine" is evidenced by her teaching a year after she was graduated and by her patriotically sending her husband off to the Civil War with: "Go and help save your country, and let us trust in the shielding care of a higher power for your protection and return."

If this "woman of strong individuality and great kindness of heart" needed any coaching to become the country's "First Lady," she had it as the wife of a senator for six years before she became the mistress of the White House, March 4, 1889.

Aside from her duties as First Lady, she was active in the Presbyterian church and in charitable organizations. She was deeply interested in, as well as associated with, the formation of the National Federation of Women's Clubs. In the White House she lent her influence to the forming of the D. A. R. as one of the five organizers. "As an individual she was gracious, charming, gifted in conversation, and lovely. Her memory will always be kept unique as the first President General of the largest patriotic association of women in the United States." After all, it was her gentle spirit, the soul that shone through her eyes, her good common sense that won her the nation's respect and admiration.

Mary McFerson, who was in O. F. C. about 1850, married Mr. John W. Foster. After serving with distinction as United States minister to three foreign

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

countries, Mr. Foster became President Harrison's Secretary of State. Naturally, Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Harrison renewed the friendship that had begun in their college days.

When Elizabeth C. Porter, 1851, married the Reverend David Swing, Miami, 1852, she became the wife of one of Miami's most distinguished alumni, later one of Chicago's greatest divines.

It is significant that O. F. C. furnished in the '50's the three previously named women who became prominent.

Bertha M. McCullough, '74, as the wife of Governor W. T. Durbin, became Indiana's First Lady. Also O. C. women have had direct influence over a governor and a senator of Kentucky, a president of the University of Nebraska, a president of Hood College, a president of Miami University, a president of the Lackawana Railroad, a president of the State Normal School of North Dakota, a news editor of the *New York Times*, an editor of the *Chicago Inter Ocean*, a president of the Street Railway of Minneapolis, a major general in the United States Army and a chaplain at Culver Military Academy.

### *Social Service*

In the realm of social service, O. C. women have occupied many and sundry positions.

Valeria Hopkins, a gay and popular college girl of '98, later became an M.D. from Chicago. Then followed several years of travel and study in Europe, in the clinics of Berlin, Vienna and Davos-Platz, Switzerland. But marriage and family duties soon cir-

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

cumscribed her attention to matters close at hand, to "what is wrong with Greenwich, Connecticut?" her immediate environment. She soon found that her first interest was not so much administering to the physically ill, as it was helping furnish the "ounce of prevention" for community ills. She began with organizing the Equal Franchise League, which gave Greenwich a suitable school board. She became the first woman probation officer in the town. Little by little her activities widened. She became executive secretary of the Connecticut Social Hygiene Society, director of social hygiene work in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, a member of the National Council of Women, of the National W.C.T.U., a promoter for a Connecticut state reformatory farm for women, and secretary of its first board of directors, and a member of the state committee on delinquency of women. She did her "bit" in World War I by serving on "the recreation committee of the state council of defense in Connecticut and was the first woman commissioned an officer of the Connecticut police in charge of protective work for women and girls throughout the state." Then came service as an executive in national organizations, such as the American Social Hygiene Association and the United States Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board.

All of this work induced in her a genuine interest in family relationships, a desire to help preserve the basis of society. Consequently her "Marriage Repair Shop" was soon a going concern. Here disgruntled and irritated spouses could work off their "peeves"



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

and, under her guidance, could often discover their mountains were mole hills. Lawyers, frequently with gratifying results, sent their divorce clients to her.

In the light of her service to mankind, Miami felt justified in awarding to Dr. Valeria Hopkins Parker at its Commencement exercises in June, 1938, the Bishop Medal, which bears the inscription: "For meritorious service in the field of social hygiene."

Georgia Greenleaf, '04, says that in the four decades since she graduated from O. C., she has spread herself "in a thin layer over quite an area."

After her graduation from the Columbia College of Expression in Chicago in 1908, she was a reader in a concert company which made two trips to California. Then came World War I which changed her objective. She became first a volunteer home service worker with the Red Cross in Missouri and later head resident of Emerson Settlement House in Chicago. To make herself better fitted for social service work, she took her B.S. degree in Public Administration at the University of Missouri and was graduated from the New York School of Social Work. From 1922 to 1924 she was superintendent of public welfare in her home county and then went to the Missouri State Children's Bureau for three years. For another three years she was assistant to the superintendent of the Southern Tier Children's Home in Elmira, New York, where an antiquated institution from Civil War days was reorganized into a modern child care program, using largely foster boarding homes. She then returned to Missouri as field secretary of the New York Children's Aid Society which placed large groups of

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children in free foster homes in the middle west. With the discontinuance of this "immigration," she helped to complete the job, eventually supervising the left-over wards in Kansas and Nebraska as the Missouri work tapered off.

Miss Greenleaf has retired three times, but World War II drove her to work half time in the children's division of the Missouri State Welfare Department. As late as 1947, she was engaged for a few months with the St. Louis Children's Agency.

To prevent following other social workers to a sanitarium from nerve-wracking experiences, she took vacation trips, going twice to Europe, once to Mexico, and often to all parts of the United States. Again she has retired and shares with a friend a little white cottage with green shutters and a rose garden in the college town of Columbia, Missouri, where her ex-wards, who call her "G. G.," frequently visit.

Evelyn Crady (Mrs. Adams), '05, lists her social work as "field worker and administrator with the American Red Cross from 1919 to 1922 and with the United States government from 1922 to 1934."

Ethel McLane, '15, who was the highly successful president of the O. C. student government in her senior year, was upon graduation almost immediately connected with the associated charities in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

She was instrumental in organizing the Family Service Association, and as its director for twenty years, brought it to its present state of efficiency. During the depression she was given a leave of absence to serve on the Governor's Commission for Unem-

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

ployed Relief of Allen County, Indiana, where she remained for three years.

In November, 1946, she resigned the directorship of the Family Service Association in order to become field director, executive secretary, and assistant treasurer of the Indiana Cancer Society, with headquarters in Indianapolis.

Lucille Batson, '23, expecting to be a pedagogue, majored in English. But a senior course in sociology challenged her early choice of life work. However, this new interest lay dormant in the back of her head for four years while she actively engaged in teaching English. When opportunity came to join the research division of the Helen Troumstine Foundation in Cincinnati, teaching went by the board. She fortified herself with study at the University of Cincinnati while doing field work with the Associated Charities. Soon the psychiatric case work interested her. Consequently her field study at the New York School of Social Work was with behavior problem children at the Institute of Child Guidance.

Miss Batson's first position was as a family case worker with a private agency in St. Louis. Then followed supervising work with a public agency that had 1600 children on its roll.

From 1936 to 1942 she was on the staff of an agency-operated institution in Indianapolis. She was then elected executive director of the Children's Bureau of the Indianapolis Orphan Asylum, a new agency, where she served for five years, with a leave of absence during the summer of 1944 to complete the work for her A.M. at Columbia University.

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

In addition to her local duties, she has been chairman of the boarding homes of the Marion County, Indiana, Council of Social Agencies, secretary of the council's executive committee, a member of the executive committee of the National Conference for Social Work, and chairman of the Indianapolis chapter of the American Association of Social Workers.

### *Miscellaneous Occupations*

Of those outstanding in different fields, the following have one point in common—efficiency.

Virginia Ethel Moon<sup>1</sup>, born in Oxford in 1844 of southern parents, was a sister of Oxford's famous "Lottie Moon." When the Civil War broke out, Virginia was a spirited southern sympathizer in a northern school—the O. F. C. In order to be sent home, she shot out all of the stars in the Union flag and etched with her diamond ring "Hurrah for Jeff Davis" on a glass showcase in an Oxford store. Her wish was promptly granted and home she went.

Throughout the war she was a Confederate spy. She not only carried dispatches, but contraband goods. The style of the dress at the time, a long full skirt, lent itself well to this effort. Small bottles of quinine, opium and other contraband articles could be fastened around the bottom of the skirt and others near the waist line.

Although beautiful, vivacious, a flirt on a grand scale, and quick of tongue, Virginia was not always successful in deceiving the shrewd Yankee officers,

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1. "Old Oxford Houses."



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

for she spent three months as a prisoner in Fortress Monroe. Full of energy and resourcefulness, sharp of wit, she was known as "Miss Ginger" rather than Miss Virginia. To be engaged to sixteen southern soldiers at a time in order "to make them happy if they died"—and if they did not, no matter!—did not disturb her peace of mind.

Even at the age of seventy-five she was still ambitious. While in California she became consumed with a desire for a career in motion pictures, applied for a role, and through her wit and assurance, got it! She appeared with Pola Negri and other stars. She spent her last years living alone in an apartment in Greenwich Village, New York, dying alone there on September 11, 1925, she who had been a beautiful and an alluring belle.

In the field of nursing there is Katherine Densford, who completed her preparatory work at O. C., was graduated from Miami in 1914, took her A.M. degree from the University of Chicago, her nurse's training in Cincinnati, and is now director of the School of Nursing in the University of Minnesota.

Caroline Benoist, '17, a graduate (1925) of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing, did institutional work, mostly surgical, there for ten years. She then engaged in public health nursing for the Mississippi State Board of Health for five years. After post-graduate work at Vanderbilt University and the University of Chicago, World War II sent her into war emergency clinics for four years. For the year 1945 she was on the staff of Children's Hospital in Washington, D. C., in the child welfare department.

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She resigned this position in 1946 to care for her aged mother in Natchez, Mississippi.

Ruth Kley Meyer (Mrs. Ernest K. Beer), '20, who was the efficient and well-loved president of the O. C. student government in 1919-'20, is now a registered nurse. She practiced for years in Los Angeles. She retired three times, but World War II drove her into uniform again, this time in a hospital in Evansville, Indiana, where she worked in surgery. As the war work eased off, she continued working, but as a teacher of nursing. She thinks she is now definitely retiring.

After Mary Janet Ruley, (Mrs. Richard Potter), '21, taught in Hawaii and Florida, she changed her vocation and was graduated from the Ravenswood Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago. Then followed service in two Chicago hospitals. For one year she was assistant director of nursing at Lutheran Memorial Hospital. For eight years she was at the Children's Memorial Hospital, where she was at various times assistant head nurse, head nurse, afternoon supervisor, and supervisor in the out-patient department. Somehow during this time she managed to wedge in a year of post-graduate work at the University of Chicago. Since her marriage in '43, she has taught home nursing for the Red Cross in Louisville high and parochial schools. In January, '46, she began Red Cross disaster nursing, first in the south-eastern Kentucky flood area, then in the Miami, Florida, disaster in October and November, 1947.

Frances Lear A. Powell, '23, taught home economics for several years and then followed her natural

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

bent—to help someone. For ten years she was graduate, head nurse, supervisor, instructor of surgical nursing, and later instructor of nursing arts in Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Then followed a period at the University Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. She returned to the Cook County Hospital as assistant director in the School of Nursing in charge of the medical nursing service.

Dorothy Fultz, ex-'25, was head nurse in one of the surgical wards in the Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

Mary Alice Keck, ex-'29, a registered nurse, supervised at Bellevue Hospital in New York for three years, taught one year in the Mt. Pleasant Hospital, then became a doctor's office nurse in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Goldie Brenneman (Mrs. Schroeder), ex-'29, practiced at first on the "gold coast" patients of Evanston, Illinois, then turned to work in Chicago's famous Maxwell Street near Hull House and found the work "interesting, even fascinating," which shows that her heart was in the service, rather than in the remuneration. When the war made a soldier of her husband, she turned to the public health field of nursing.

Ava Sims (Mrs. William Edward Parker), '21, a registered nurse before she married, returned to the field during World War II by helping to take care of "the cutest little babies" in the Woman's Hospital in Pasadena. As she could not be on duty eight hours each day, she was dubbed "Now and Then."

Evelyn Rietze, '20, was Louisville's public school director of lunches for thirty thousand elementary

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

and secondary school children and teachers and dietitian to nurses in two Louisville hospitals for eight years, hard years too, for part of it was during the war.

Linda Clements (Mrs. Graham Ross), '21, previous to her marriage, was a dietitian in the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington.

Margaret Maury (Mrs. C. G. Waller), '21, was dietitian in a hospital in Galveston before her marriage and again during World War II, and now whenever the hospital needs her.

Aileen Brown, '22, a dietitian, worked so hard in the Medical College of Virginia, in the hospital division and in graduate work in Columbia that her health broke. She died in July, 1945, but not until she had made a name for herself in the Medical College. She gave of herself that others might live.

Ida Glendenning, '24, was assistant dietitian in the Marine Hospital at Norfolk in '29 and later was connected with the public health service in the United States Marine Hospital in Baltimore.

Owena Crumb (Mrs. Preston De Voe), '27, was dietitian in a Niagara hospital for years prior to her marriage.

Juliette Mayer, '14, B.S. and M.S. University of Wisconsin, did her first work in the Girls' Industrial School at Delaware, Ohio, where she asked to be put in charge of the worst ward in order to see if she could help a certain incorrigible girl to a better way of living. For eight years she lived in New Orleans. The first two years she lived at Kingsley House Neighborhood Center and the last six directed Junior League



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girls in their own project—a center in a French town. She followed her graduate work in the University of Wisconsin with a year's study of housing in England. On returning to the States, she taught in the University of Wisconsin for the next six years. In September, 1943, with the title of "Tenant Aide," she began working on a low-cost housing project in Minneapolis. Her whole procedure, program, and results appeared in a management publication, January, 1945, of the National Association of Housing Officials as a solution of housing management problems. In addition to the tenant aide work, she supervised the field work of University of Minnesota students in a course in sociology and lectured regularly in two courses given each semester at the University.

Of librarians, three are outstanding. Nettie E. Kagay (Mrs. J. A. Gravett), '82, was librarian at Ohio State University until sent by the American Library Association to organize libraries in a United States veterans' hospital and a Marine hospital in Palo Alto. Mary Belle Kellogg, '19, was a reference librarian for sixteen years at San Bernardino, California. From December, 1943, to the present time, she has been head librarian. Elizabeth Burr, ex-'29, was librarian in the children's department in Springfield, Illinois, for several years. In the spring of 1946, the Wisconsin Library Commission called her to a newly-created department—field visitor in charge of children's work. Half of the time is spent in choosing and annotating children's books for the Wisconsin bulletin. The other half is spent in advising with and helping librarians throughout the state.

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

Margaret Noble (Mrs. Frank Liddle), '17, and her husband have developed a guidance program for high school students. They spend two days in setting up the program in a school. So successful has it been, that the Liddles are called from northern Illinois to Mississippi, and all territory in between. This is their hobby and is not done for profit.

In the field of business, perhaps the four most outstanding are: Mary Loomis Cook (Mrs. David Buckley), '18, A.M. University of Pennsylvania, who, although a fine student, and musically educated, disliked teaching so cordially that she turned to business. She worked up to a responsible position in the advertising field when advertising by radio was new.

Evelyn Rietze<sup>1</sup>, after eight years of serving a limited public, opened and operates successfully her own "cafeteria with the personal touch" in Louisville.

Portia Christian, ex-'30, after sixteen different and varied jobs, found herself as the only woman at the Caldwell-Baker Advertising Agency in Indianapolis. There for eighteen months she was, as she expresses it, "handy Andy." Though officially engaged as secretary to the president, she was promoted to what she called "a girl Friday" for the president. A stockholder in the company, she eventually worked up to being secretary of the company, and a member of the board of directors. For two years she was president of the business and professional women's club in her church. Then came the war.<sup>2</sup> When that was over, she then returned to the Indianapolis agency and was

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1. See under dietitians.

2. See under war activities.

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

assigned as administrative assistant to the president. She is secretary of the Indiana chapter of the National Association of Industrial Advertisers and of two women's organizations in the second Presbyterian in Indianapolis.

Sarah C. Bates, ex-'31, and her husband, Mr. Halbert Harpole, own and operate the "Sarah Catherine Pottery" at Laguna Beach, California. Sarah's work is the painting of the ware.

### *War Service*

In war activities, many O. C. girls gave much of their time and strength, especially in the last war, when they drove for the Army, Navy and Red Cross, everything from a "jeep" to a three-ton truck. Margaret Barrett (Mrs. Edwin O'Neill), ex-'30, drove a truck on one convoy for seven hundred miles. Other girls drove in cities and served in all sorts of capacities. The following are typical activities:

Vera Gertrude Kirkpatrick, ex-'14, served in a "Y" canteen in France during the first World War. When chocolate ran short, there was always a bar of it under the counter for the Miami man who visited this canteen.

Mary Loomis Cook,<sup>1</sup> '18, was a yeoman in the Navy in World War I and soon was put to organizing drives and doing executive work, which occasioned working with officers of rank. So successful was she that she was retained for some time after the war was over.

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1. See under business.

## FIELDS OF SERVICE

Lillian Hinzen (Mrs. Barth), '14, was staff assistant in the Red Cross in Louisville during the last war.

Gail Boyd (Mrs. Jack Butterfield), '16, and Mildred Ellen Taylor, '21, A.M. and Ph.D. University of Illinois, were Grey Ladies, the former in San Diego and the latter in Staunton, Virginia, where she has been head of the mathematics department in Mary Baldwin College for the past eighteen years. She is Virginia state president of the A. A. U. W. and president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian church in Staunton.

Ila Scott, '24, for twelve years a teacher in government Indian schools, enlisted in the W. A. C. as a laboratory technician. She served in hospitals from Washington state to Florida. At the Pratt General Hospital in Florida, she and a doctor captain made a new T. B. medium. When the war was over, she returned to her Civil Service work and is again teaching Indians, who, she declares, are easier to discipline than white students.

Caroline Wills, '26, in addition to her regular teaching duties gave at least one hundred and fifty hours as nurse's aide, taught nutrition and canteen classes, and worked six hours a week at the canteen and U. S. O. in Evansville, Indiana.

Portia Christian, ex-'30, was granted a leave of absence from the Caldwell-Baker Advertising in Indianapolis in June, 1944, and enlisted in the W. A. C. Her work in the office of the chief signal officer in Washington, D. C., was so outstanding that she was awarded the Legion of Merit medal. She was the sixth woman ever to receive that honor.



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Jennie Malin Carter, ex-'31, B.S. University of Louisville, after fourteen years of teaching, enlisted in the Navy in 1943. She was trained as an officer and served eighteen months as officer assistant to the chief engineer of the Naval aircraft factory in Corpus Christi, Texas. On several occasions she served as officer courier and flew top secrets from Philadelphia to Washington. When the war closed, she was trained as an educational services officer and served at the Naval Hospital at Great Lakes and in New Orleans. While waiting for an over-seas assignment, she worked on her master's degree in George Washington University during the summer of 1947. In late August of that year she sailed for Germany to teach in the occupied zone.



## V. CURRICULUM; EXTRA-CURRICULUM; CUSTOMS; RULES

FROM the beginning the course of study was a systematic one, comparing favorably with that of any similar institution. Sometimes when necessary, special emphasis was placed on some particular course or courses. For example, on January 30, 1885, the faculty resolved to have "weekly recitations in geography and spelling." No pupil was excused except on satisfactory examination. The faculty did not wish an O. F. C. girl to find herself in a situation comparable to the one a serious-minded-lecture-goer occupied during World War II when a speaker<sup>1</sup>, who had been married twice, said he had "one son in the Seventh Army and another in diapers," and the serious-minded lady rose to ask, "Where is Diapers?"

In June, 1888, the department of music was elevated to the importance of a conservatory and was called the Oxford Conservatory of Music. But the catalogue of 1889-'90 lists it as College of Music and

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1. See "The Proper Bostonians."

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

as such it was known for the duration of the life of the College.

In the spring of 1889, after Dr. and Mrs. Walker had returned from a personal investigation of the best American colleges for women, it was decided that the College should offer three courses of study, any one of which could be elected by a candidate for graduation.

The classical<sup>1</sup> course, offering three languages besides English, namely Latin, Greek and German, led to the A.B. degree. The scientific course, offering three languages besides English, namely, Latin, German, French led to the B.S. degree. The literary course, offering one language, French, besides English and Anglo-Saxon, led to the B.L. degree.

In the fall of '89 there were fifty students in German, a large class in French, and an enthusiastic class in Greek. Much was made of these language classes as girls had not previously done much studying of languages outside of a fair knowledge of Latin and French, although German had been introduced in the curriculum in September, 1873. Anglo-Saxon was taught in only a few colleges in '89.

In 1890-'91 the curriculum was again raised till it was on a "level with any institution."

In 1892-'93 the School of Expression became Oxford College of Oratory, and a systematic course of study was offered. For the first time diplomas for completing the two-year course were granted in June, 1893. The diploma admitted a student without ex-

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1. Classical honors, the Valedictory and Salutation, were given in Latin and German, and sometimes in Greek.

## CURRICULUM

amination into the senior class of the Boston School of Oratory.

This division of the College went through several phases: from an unorganized to a full four-year course; from granting certificates to granting diplomas and even a Bachelor of Oratory degree; from an admittance to the senior class to admittance to the graduate school in the Boston School of Expression and the Leland Powers School of Dramatic Art; from the name Elocution department to the School of Expression, Oxford College of Oratory, and the College of Expression. From the beginning of Dr. Sherzer's administration, the status of this part of the College was uncertain, and yet the course had not been weakened. Nevertheless, by June, 1908, the president had decided to do away with the College of Expression. Consequently the catalogue of 1908 listed "Elocution" as an "elective," and as such it remained until the College closed.

After a committee from the University of Michigan had visited the College in '93, O. C. graduates were admitted to advanced standing in that university without examination.

In 1894, transfer students could enter the collegiate department of the College only by examination or on certificate from another college approved by the faculty.

In 1898, Dr. Walker announced that a graduate of O. C. was the first woman to enter Columbia University without examination and that O. C. was also accredited by Smith, Vassar, Cornell and the University of Michigan.



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

While a few courses in Domestic Science were taught in 1909, it was not until the fall of 1910 that a systematic course, the Two-Year Normal Domestic Science Course, was organized under the direction of Miss Bertha Cold, a graduate of Pratt Institute with the title of Director of Household Economics. The course was begun with meager equipment, but the content of the course and the zeal and personality of the director were so excellent that the department of Home Economics was well launched by June, 1911. It continued to expand until the day O. C. closed its doors. The department, begun in the basement of the College, soon outgrew those quarters and was moved to the remodelled West Cottage, formerly known as the "boiler house." Students majoring in foods and dietetics entered such hospitals as the Walter Reed in Washington, the General and Christ in Cincinnati and became registered dietitians.

In the spring of 1915 O. C. was placed on the accredited list of Ohio colleges after Dr. W. L. Williams, the inspector of normal schools and colleges of Ohio visited the College. This meant that O. C. graduates were eligible for teachers' life certificates upon the completion of a certain number of required hours of satisfactory teaching. West Virginia and Illinois also granted teachers' certificates without examination to the O. C. graduates, and, in 1917, Michigan and Indiana did likewise.

In 1917 when many colleges followed the policy of retrenchment on account of war conditions, O. C. did not pursue that course. The College believed "the better the girls were trained physically, mentally,

## EXTRA-CURRICULUM

morally and spiritually, the greater would be their efficiency and service to the country later."

In January, 1919, a change in the four-year Domestic Science course entitled a graduate of this course to receive the B.S. degree instead of the A.B. as formerly. From then on only minor changes in the curriculum, according to the exigencies of the time, occurred.

## EXTRA CURRICULA

### *Organizations*

Two literary societies, the Philalethian and the Calliopean, were organized in the Oxford Female Institute in 1850. The former, and perhaps the latter, was at the instance of Miss Caroline Neal, Dr. Scott's first permanent assistant. The constitutions were similar, and the object of each the same—"mutual improvement in literature and science, and for the cultivation of friendship."

The badge of fealty of the Philalethians was a white rose entwined with *arbor vitae*. The colors of the Calliopeans were black and white.

Both societies met every Friday afternoon in the meagerly furnished halls eventually assigned to them. However, the lack of elegance did not dampen their spirits, for frequent mention of the "dear hall" is made by members of both societies. When something was needed for the halls, the members would arrange an entertainment, charge a small fee, and thus obtain the article. One such entertainment was given "Friday Eve, March 16, 7 1-2, Precisely" (presumably in

1877). The program consisted of "The Last Will and Testament," a comic operetta composed by Professor Karl Merz for the occasion, a "performance of some tunes on a wood and straw instrument" and a Chinese song. In both societies members were assigned the duty of cleaning the hall. Each society had its own library. Fines and fees were used to buy books and furniture for the hall. If members absented themselves without excuse, they were fined five cents and sometimes twenty-five. Both societies were fully staffed with officers, even a critic, and sometimes a censor, whose duty was to maintain order at all meetings and to fine any member in case of misbehavior. The critic received the essays of the members, made necessary corrections, proposed subjects for debate, and criticized the essays and compositions. She frequently also criticized the delivery.

Whenever a new president in either society presided for the first time, she always delivered an "inaugural address" in which she thanked the members for the honor they had bestowed upon her and for the confidence they reposed in her. She laid due stress on her unworthiness, but also on her eager desire to serve the society well. She always took occasion to urge every member to exert herself and thus promote interest in the society. On one occasion the "inaugural address" was said to be "beautiful and fitting." Another address was published by request. Another was declared to be "short and sweet—delivered as if she relt all she said, which is much better than an elaborate address with no feeling." Another was said to be of such character "it might well have done credit to

## EXTRA-CURRICULUM

any society in the land," so the secretary reported.

A new critic always thanked the society for the "honor and the confidence," declared herself unworthy, and begged her society sisters not to be wounded if she criticized them sharply since she would be doing only her duty in endeavoring to help them improve themselves. One critic declared herself "unworthy of the high office, but with firm reliance on God, and ever keeping in mind their noble motto—'*Nil Desperandum*'—" she thought she "might be able in a feeble way" to promote the interests of the society. One critic made her bow and said she hoped her sisters recognized her "as a martyr on stepping into the harness of a critic."

Each society<sup>1</sup> was opened by reading of the Scripture and by prayer. Various secretaries elaborated on this form. One said: "Exercises were commenced in the usual manner by reading a portion of God's holy word and imploring His blessing and protection as a society." Another stated: "The president read a part of God's precious word. Miss — offered up a heart-felt prayer." Two of the secretaries wrote the minutes after the style of the Bible, "Now it came to pass in the third month." There were, however, other forms, as when "Aggie H. Morris" (none other than "Miss Agnes") began her last minutes with "Once again Friday rolled around and with it came the time for us to assemble. With faces as pleasant as possible, we met to enjoy each other's society, for, as we thought, the last time." She then proceeded with the

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1. Both the Philalethians and the Calliopeans used the word "society" instead of meeting.



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

regular minutes and inserted her personal compliments to all the members for having performed their duties so well and expressed thanks to her sister Calliopeans for their kindness. Most of the secretaries wrote the minutes as if they were writing in their personal diaries. They expressed personal opinions, made suggestions, extended compliments, such as "the President need not stand so much, but sit in the soft chair we provided for her," or "she should be a little more dignified<sup>1</sup>," or praised "her grace and dignity." Some of the Calliopean secretaries facetiously signed their name with such phrases as "Very devotedly yours," "Yours forever," but by 1874 these additions to the signatures were quite properly omitted. On the whole the Philalethians wrote the minutes briefly and to the point and did not leave as much of a record as could be desired. The Calliopeans left more complete records and also expressed themselves more voluminously.

The critics always began their reports like a letter—"Dear Sister Calliopean:" or "Philalethian." These reports were neatly written, even if the spelling did not always conform to Webster's Unabridged. That the critic took her appointment seriously may be surmised by noting some of her comments. She criticized one speaker for trying to gather inspiration from the ceiling when she should have been looking at the president; one for catching her voice at the end of every line, "which is very disagreeable. She should try to avoid that in the future"; one for reading a composi-

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1. Said Secretary Charles Merz who became a member in November, 1874; read a composition on "Steam Engines" the following December; was elected secretary in September, 1875, and president in April, 1876. Charles was the son of Professor Merz whose family lived in the O. F. C.

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tion as if she were making a speech; members for sitting on the floor instead of chairs; one who read "Passing Away" without enough animation; one who "had a disagreeable way of singing when she read"; one for showing too much excitement in her voice during the debate, "Is an old maid preferable to an old bachelor?"; one for using "locomotive speed" when reading. "She should practice frequently and not be in such a hurry"; the choice of so many comical selections. "Choose from standard authors. Choose something more refined. Don't join the list of fast-talkers"; some members for failing to wear crepe and show respect for a departed society-sister; one for her posture and manners in reading; conduct of some members during the Scripture reading and prayer—"Behave or do away with this part of society"; the president for saying "let us go" when she should have said, "'let us adjourn' as it sounds much more refined."

But occasionally the critic praised a "sister" as when one read a selection from Shakespeare: "It was well chosen and finely read and I think Miss — has done us a good office in thus introducing the immortal bard in a society professedly literary."

At each meeting the president assigned the "duties" for the next meeting, having selected a program from the following: someone to read an original composition, someone to recite a poem, someone to read a biographical sketch, another to give the latest news, some members to give a charade, or a group to debate on some given subject, someone to close the society with music. Anyone failing to perform her assigned "duty" was fined fifteen cents.

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The Calliopeans had their "Chip Basket" and "Wood Box." The Philalethians had an "Anonymous Box." These boxes contained original contributions from members of the society and were to be read only about every two months—unless the program planned for the day failed. In that event there was the box to fill in the gap.

The recitations varied from a poem by Longfellow and "God Pointing Us to Heaven in All Our Troubles and in Our Hours of Pleasure" to "Father, Come Home, Father." The compositions were on such subjects as "What Can a Woman Do?," "Novel Reading, Yellow-Covered Literature," "Can the Immortality of the Soul be Proved by Nature?," and "The Rainbow of the Soul." Debates ranged from "Resolved that a law is unconstitutional which prohibits the wearing of a Mother Hubbard" to "Resolved that Free Trade is better than Tariff" or "Resolved that Longfellow, the poet, is a greater man than Longfellow, the man."

When one society entertained the other, the visiting society was always escorted by two ushers sent from the hostess society.

It was one thing to join these societies; it was quite another to withdraw. Unless an indisputable excuse was given, the request to withdraw would be tabled meeting after meeting.

When a member died the society always passed resolutions and draped the hall in mourning.

The societies had distinguished honorary members such as Professor and Mrs. David Swing of Miami, Dr. and Mrs. Morris, Professor Merz and others. Fre-

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quently Professor Merz called on the Calliopeans. He always made a little speech, gave advice, and sometimes offered prayer.

At the time the Philalethians and Calliopeans were flourishing in O. F. C., the Miami Union and Erodelphian were in full flower at Miami. The Miami societies would invite the faculty and students of O. F. C. to their exhibit. If any member of these two Miami societies was to be a speaker, and happened to be on the "black list" at O. F. C., then that invitation was declined.

These societies were taken seriously and figured so much in the life of the Institute and later of the O. F. C. that an afternoon at Commencement time was given to their exercises. To the seniors in each society a "diploma", "a memento and token of our esteem," was awarded with a little speech by some chosen alumna. Then a farewell address was delivered before both societies by some outside speaker chosen by the societies in a previous joint meeting. One of these speakers was the Reverend R. L. Stanton, D.D., of Chillicothe, Ohio, who spoke on "Female Heroism." He discoursed against the "bloomer-costumed" woman, urged "courage and intrepidity to develop and foster a true missionary spirit," and recommended that women stay in the home and not attempt careers usually "believed to belong exclusively to men."

When Dr. Scott left the Institute, he was alleged to have taken with him, and later to have installed in

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1. These diplomas were on parchment and fastened with broad white silk ribbon. A scroll work around the copy and a two-inch margin made them look very formal.



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

the new building, the library of one of the literary societies. The objection to this was sufficiently vehement to cause a law suit. The trial was held at Miami University, where all classes were dismissed for the occasion. One authority claims that Judge Smith, defending Dr. Scott, won the case. Another declares that a compromise of some sort was accomplished, which seems likely for this "tempest in a teapot."

In the '50's the Philalethian society published a paper called *The Philalethian* under the motto, "Love God, Love Truth, Love Virtue and Be Happy." Articles in these papers were on such doleful subjects as "The Palace of Death," "Contentment," "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," "The Hour of Death," "Weep not for the Dead," "Dust to Dust," and "Is There More of Joy or Sorrow in Life?" Occasionally a happier theme appeared, such as a sketch of Martin Luther. These papers illustrate the sedateness of the "Age of Crinoline."

The Calliopeans resolved to publish a paper under the title of "The Casket." Whether or not this reached more than the "resolved" status, the records and files do not show.

In the '80's the societies seemed to have lost their vitality. With interest lagging, the students were divided into two lots arbitrarily, separating friends. On October 23, 1885, the Calliopean minutes record that the Philalethian proposed that both societies disband because of few members in each organization. No mention of this proposal appears in the Philalethian minutes. However, there are no Philalethian minutes after October 2, 1885. To the last each society

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had its gold pin, but the missionary society had become more popular.

In 1899 the Century Literary Club was organized. In 1900 it was affiliated with the Federation of Women's Clubs in Ohio. In 1906 Dr. Sherzer conceived the idea of reviving the old Philaethian and Calliopean societies, minus their fanfare, as two branches of the Century Club. In 1909 the Century Club was affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs. These branches remained active until the College closed.

Along with the literary societies, there was a strong and active "Society of Inquiry on Missions," organized for the purpose of "cultivating mutual information and consultation on the state of the world, the progress of civilization and Christianity." "The personal duty in reference to these objects" was stressed in the '50's. The president of the College regularly addressed the society the third Sabbath of each month. By the '60's the regular monthly meetings were carefully planned and made interesting with a definite and serious program in which faculty and students alike took part. Essays on such subjects as "The Colored Mission Schools of the South" or "A Sabbath in Constantinople" were part of the program.

With the suspension of the College for 1882-'83, the Society of Inquiry was not reorganized until September 24, 1884, after which time it continued until 1899.

In 1891 the Society sent a Christmas box to the Broken Arrow School in the Indian Territory, an appropriation to the music school in Barranquilla,

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South America, and contributed to the general Presbyterian Society of Dayton of which the College society was a part. Each member pledged to give ten cents a month for these causes; the Society gave benefit entertainments. In 1892 the Society sent to Mrs. Ritchie (who was later Mrs. Lingle) \$50 for the Lung Chow Music School in China where Mrs. Ritchie labored.

At the meetings after the reorganization the members answered roll call with a quotation from the Bible. On a certain Sunday "one of the brightest girls (Helen Rankin, lovingly and significantly called Blazes) very brightly recited for roll call: 'Ephraim' is joined to idols: let him alone,' whereupon Dr. Walker had a sudden fit of coughing that demanded the use of his handkerchief."

In 1872 the Alumnae Association was organized with Mrs. Elizabeth Porter Swing as president. Formal meetings were scheduled for the Saturday before Commencement each year, when some chosen alumna gave an address. When these formal meetings seemed to wane in the early 1900's, a luncheon at the College was substituted and brief speeches were made. In 1925 at the annual meeting of the association it was voted that an Alumnae Council of nine members be elected by popular ballot. Each member of the Council was to be a representative of the alumnae from one of the nine geographical districts. The purpose of such a council was to form a medium between the Alumnae Association as a whole and the Board of

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1. Hosea: 4, 17.

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Trustees. This was another frantic effort to keep the College running—a whistle in the dark.

With the closing of the College, many of the various branches disintegrated. There are, however, two splendid exceptions — the branch in Indianapolis, which has regular meetings and sponsors an annual spring luncheon at which any faculty member or O. C. girl is welcome, be she from Indiana or any other state, and the Southern California branch in Los Angeles. This branch also has regular meetings, but its gala day is Founders' Day, February 27. Both of these branches have contributed generously to the scholarship funds, as did the Louisville branch prior to its dispersion.

A branch of the Society of Christian Endeavor was established in the College in 1887. It met every Sunday afternoon at five o'clock except the third Sabbath. The members took turns in leading the meetings. "Delightful reports came back to the College from various states of the formation of new societies that owed their organization entirely to the members of the College society."

As the Christian Endeavor is not mentioned in the catalogue after 1897, and is primarily a Presbyterian organization, it seems likely that out of it grew a branch of the Y. W. C. A., which was organized in the College on October 12, 1899, and which was a charter member of the "National Students' Organization founded in 1898." The Y met every Sunday evening in the College chapel. At Christmas and Easter it sponsored special services. On Easter morning, everyone, dressed in white, was not only re-



quired, but wanted to attend breakfast. The faculty and students passed through two lines of the choir singing Easter hymns on the stairway leading to the dining room. At each plate was a daffodil. During World War I, it was suggested that the money to buy the Easter daffodil be saved for some war fund. But this custom meant so much that the students at once exclaimed: "Please let us have our daffodils. We will give generously, sacrificing some other way, if need be." Immediately after breakfast the Y conducted impressive services in the chapel where, thanks to a committee arising at five, there was a large cross covered with fresh flowers. The room was filled with the fragrance from bouquets loaned by students. For a time some minister addressed the students and the faculty. Later the services followed a program general throughout Y organizations. If there had been a Y in 1875, perhaps Nannie DeWitt would not have recorded in her diary: "March 28, Easter Sunday. Fannie and I ran off and went to the Catholic church today. Messrs. Caleb Shera and Will Faucett (two Miami gallants) went with us."

For years the Y sent a Christmas box to a mission school in Tulsa, Indian Territory. Dressing dolls for this box gave students an opportunity to express themselves about the foibles of the faculty. A notable example was the doll whose hair was in three puffs. Exhibition of these dolls, at five cents a person, paid the express to Tulsa. Nor were the poor children of Oxford forgotten. Before there was a Community Chest, the Y entertained these forlorn little souls by letting them speak their pieces, sing their songs and

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revel in ice cream and cookies. Often a child went home wearing new shoes.

In 1915 the National Board of the Y. W. C. A. cited the Y of Oxford College as follows: "This certifies that the Y. W. C. A. of O. C. has been awarded first place on the Student Association Honor Roll for having among the smaller colleges, the largest number, in proportion to total membership, enrolled in voluntary Bible classes." Signed by Emma Bailey Speer, president of the National Board.

It was the Y that sponsored the "Big Sister" movement in 1917, that greeted students on arrival in September with a refreshing drink of cold lemonade, and that sent flowers to the hospitals. It was the Social Service committee of the Y that took up Red Cross work—knitting and sewing—and established an auxiliary chapter at the College in 1917. In October of the same year, the Y pledged \$800 to the Student Friendship War Fund. By shucking corn on farms, performing many kinds of manual labor, and sacrificing luxuries, \$822.47 was actually paid into the fund by December 15, 1917, the dead line. O. C. was one of two or three colleges in the state that fulfilled its pledge on time, and that without outside help. With the fund completed, the girls made money for the Red Cross.

In December, 1918, the Y had the first service of the kind Oxford had ever had. It was the service of "White Gifts for the King" in the candle-lighted chapel, where there was a reading of "The Turn of the Road," music by the string sextette, including a harp, and a procession past the altar where gifts were

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laid, and finally the formation of a circle around the room to repeat the benediction in unison.

In February, 1921, the O. C. girls joined other colleges in America and contributed \$133 to the fund for European students. Again the girls made the money to contribute. The Y remained a strong organization to the end of the College's existence as a separate entity.

There is no record of political clubs in the Institute. But a certain window pane bears today the date of Lee's surrender, April 10, 1865, which an Oxford Female Institute student etched with her diamond ring. Probably feeling was strong, tempers often hot, but there were no formal organizations.

The same was true at the Oxford Female College. However, at a meeting of the O. F. C. students held in the chapel on Monday evening, April 17, 1865, resolutions on the death of President Lincoln were solemnly drawn and adopted. (See Appendix.)

Politics and gay young college girls ordinarily did not mix. But the fall of 1888 saw politics among the first interests in O. F. C., for was not one of their own number, Caroline Scott Harrison, hoping to be the First Lady of the land? Was not Benjamin Harrison, a college brother-in-law, campaigning for the presidency of the United States? Consequently a "Carrie Harrison" club (Republican) was organized. It was enthusiastic and active in trying to persuade relatives and friends to vote for Benjamin Harrison as president.

There was also a Prohibition club, but it had only seven members. It hardly made a ripple on the Col-

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lege sea — seven competing against Caroline Scott!

The Frances Cleveland club, boasting of thirty-five on its roll, tried to make itself a factor in the College political atmosphere.

At the invitation of General and Mrs. Harrison, the Republican club, eighty-five strong, under the escort of Dr. and Mrs. Walker, and three teachers, Miss Fisher, Miss Wilson, and Miss Eleanor Deem, went to Indianapolis in a special car to call at the Harrison home. Even indifferent, staid, city people stopped to look at the gay throng of excited maidens as they left their car in the Indianapolis station. It was a red-letter day for each happy girl.

At the Harrison home a handsome floral log cabin made of Marechal Niel roses, with a roof of smilax and a smoke plant coming out its chimney, had preceded the delegation—a gift from the club to Mrs. Harrison.

After informal greetings, Miss Deem, the youngest teacher on the faculty, a clear and graceful speaker, extended the felicities of the College and of the club in particular to General and Mrs. Harrison. She made gracious reference to Mrs. Harrison's honored father, and in conclusion assured the Harrisons that, if in the providence of God the election was in their favor, no congratulations would be more sincere than those extended by the Carrie Harrison club. (The Frances Cleveland club had been invited to accompany the Harrison club, but declined!)

Election week was a memorable one at the College. The night of the election everyone was keyed up until three A. M. when it was definitely known Harrison



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had been elected. It was then that the Republicans triumphed over the Democrats, who had cut the bell rope, and signaled the election of a Republican president—Benjamin Harrison—by working the clapper by hand.

With the election over, the Harrison club magnanimously entertained the Cleveland club and others to a supper. The following program was given with Dr. Walker in "his usual happy style" as toastmaster: "The Obligations of the United States to Oxford" by Professor A. J. Gantvoort; "The Value of Two Political Clubs in the College" By Miss De Vore; "Relation of O. C. for Young Ladies to the Coming Administration" by Miss Gertrude McMillan. This wound up the life of the two prominent political clubs of the College. However, it is recorded that in 1889 when James E. Campbell was elected governor of Ohio, "the Democrats entertained the Republicans," and in 1891, when a Republican governor was elected, the Republicans returned the compliment. But these organizations never seem to have acquired the prestige enjoyed by the Harrison and Cleveland clubs, nor did the political club of 1912-1913, which indulged in a debate on suffrage with two from Miami and two from Western College.

In the early fall of 1918 the United States government made a special appeal to colleges to train their students in the art of four-minute speeches for the purpose of disseminating important messages and appeals. At first the Public Speaking class took up the work, but soon so many others wanted to take this training in a patriotic work that a Four-Minute-Men

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Club was formed. A certain number of speeches were heard each evening, criticisms and suggestions were made, and a vote taken to determine the best speech which was later repeated in housemeeting. Each housemeeting speaker was expected to make one speech before the student body. After doing that, she was to be recommended to the headquarters in Washington. The Armistice of November 11, of course, put an end to this effort.

Other organizations were: the Stenographic Society, organized sometime before 1890 and existing for about a decade; the Post-players for those interested in dramatics, organized September 20, 1918; the College publications—*Collegian*, *Spirit*, which was a lineal descendent of the *Collegian*, the *Press*, including *Who's Who*, and the *Oxonian*, which afforded an outlet for those with literary tastes and aspirations; Athletic Association which required five hundred points to earn an O. C. monogram; Glee Club, Choral Society and Orchestra, which afforded opportunities for self-expression to music lovers; French and Spanish clubs for linguistic enthusiasts; the Triple Torch, organized in 1918, which was a junior-senior honorary society whose purpose was not only to reward and honor manifested ability and loyalty, but to bring together girls of the upper classes who excelled in scholarship, leadership and willingness to serve the best interests of the College; the International Relations club, organized January 19, 1921, by Miss Helen Gray, professor of history, who realized that knowledge of current affairs would be improved by some systematic study outside of the classroom. This club

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began with the study of Russia. It met once a month when a definite program on some international question was carried out, such as "The League of Nations," or "The Ruhr Invasion," and it remained a strong and active factor in the life of the College. The state clubs were purely social but added zest and rivalry. The Student Government, organized in September, 1905, was entirely successful and instituted an honor system that was really effective and established a fine workable code.

Through the tireless efforts of Miss Jennie Richey, '88, who became the organizing president, the Caroline Scott chapter of the D. A. R. was formally organized in the College chapel October 20, 1916, with Mrs. Austin Brant, State Regent, presiding. This chapter was at once vigorous and continues so to this writing. It meets once a month in the "Brant Room" at the College.

A chapter of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae was organized in the College by Dr. Sherzer. Later this chapter was affiliated with the College Woman's Club of Oxford which was more lenient in its requirements for membership.

O. C. was a charter member<sup>1</sup> of the National Federation of College Women. The College was also a member of the Ohio Association of Colleges.

### CUSTOMS AT OXFORD COLLEGE

#### *Chapel*

For many years the methods<sup>2</sup> of religious instruc-

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1. *Journal of Education*, August 29, 1912.

2. *Ladies Collegian*, November, 1890.

## CUSTOMS

tion in O. C. were interesting and unique. Every day at 8:30 A. M. there was morning worship, and immediately after supper came evening service. The morning service consisted of a hymn, Scripture reading with comments, prayer by the President, the Apostles' Creed repeated in unison, and the Gloria, composed by Professor Hoffman, which was sung for dismissal.

At these morning services the seniors sat on the platform. For a number of weeks before Commencement, they had to read something before the school—one girl each morning. The selections for the reading were made by the girls themselves. Helen Rankin—"Blazes"—who had convulsed the Missionary meeting, was less than five feet tall. When it was her turn to read, she rose and solemnly read a long article beginning "Size is not the measure of importance."

The evening service was like the morning one except that the Lord's Prayer was repeated instead of the Creed.

Immediately after the morning service the whole school divided into small classes for twenty minutes study of the Bible. Sometimes a portion of the time was given to the consideration of practical lessons to be learned from the Bible narrative. Both teachers and students expressed their views, and the following day short papers were written embodying all that was important in the previous exercise.

These daily services<sup>1</sup> were a part of the College life from the time when Dr. Scott required a verba-

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1. "Milestone of Progress."



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

tim knowledge of the Decalogue, and when Dr. Morris mounted the pulpit to flay heterodoxy with fiery eloquence, down to the era of "inspiration talks."

In the early 1900's the evening service was omitted, as were also the twenty-minute classes for Bible study. Regular hour classes for the study of the Bible, twice a week, were substituted. The morning service was changed to ten o'clock, when the seniors in cap and gown were led in by a vested choir singing the processional. A hymn, responsive reading of a Psalm, and prayer, followed by a second hymn, constituted the service. At least once a week a short talk, usually by some visiting speaker, was included in the service. These talks were sometimes secular, but they were always instructive, suitable for the occasion and never flippant. The services were always dignified, reverent and restful. They did not conform to any creed and were therefore participated in by all students. Later Scripture reading and prayer at breakfast on Saturday morning took the place of the chapel service for that day. Church service in a village church, and the voluntary Y. W. service in the evening, was the regular program for Sunday.

### *Vespers*

At four o'clock on the first Sunday of the month a Vesper service was held in the chapel. The faculty, in academic costume, was preceded by the vested choir. The order of the service was the same as that of the weekly chapel except for an address by some guest speaker and solos or choral singing. The candlelit vesper service at Christmas time and the special

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service at Easter stand out vividly in the memory of every O. C. girl.

### *Cap and Gown*

The cap and gown were introduced in 1890 and worn perhaps for the first time as class insignia in any college west of the Alleghenies. In time, the color of the tassel on the cap indicated the class to which the student belonged. For years every resident student wore this academic costume on the street. In later years this costume was reserved for special occasions. The capping and gowning of the juniors at the last chapel service of the college year signified the dignity, the honor, and the responsibility that came at the third milestone of the college course.

With the passing of the cap and gown era, students going up town were required to wear hats, for that expedition was just as much of an event as if they had come from a greater distance, and, therefore, it was good taste to be suitably dressed. However, "suitably dressed" was sometimes strained by the wearing of some out-worn headgear the hall rack furnished. But a hat was a hat, and the rule did not designate the style, the owner or the becomingness.

### *Recreation*

From 1882, when the College moved back to its original town quarters, down to the early 1900's, the student body *en masse* took its daily out-door exercises at four o'clock under the vigilant eye of a faculty member. Two by two the students walked in what the Miami students inelegantly called the "chain

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gang." It was in the '80's that the girls danced every night in "gym hall" until eight o'clock when study hour began. As Friday evening was free from study, it was frequently, in the winter, taken up with parties, usually masquerades. There was also that exciting sport of coasting on Main Street hill on the Beta or the Phi Delt bobsleds<sup>1</sup>, "Wooglin" or "Phikeia," according to which colors you proudly wore. Since the Miami men took their fraternities seriously, almost a riot occurred when two O. F. C. girls, more mischievous than impartial or naive, arrived on the hill with Beta colors flying from one shoulder and Phi Delt from the other.

In pleasant weather one favorite form of recreation was having picnics out at "the ruins."<sup>2</sup> Another was spring baseball. To the O. F. C. team Mr. George Adams, a local druggist whom every College girl knew, magnanimously gave one baseball cap. Since one of the popular girls could neither throw nor catch a ball, much less bat one, she wore the cap! Thus the honors were divided. At this same time, the team circulated a rumor that it was to play the Western team on the Western campus on a given Saturday. The team was delighted when it learned that practically all of the Miami men had managed to conceal themselves among Western's bushes where they waited at least an hour for the game that never came off. Of course, the boys would not have been allowed to witness the game had it really taken place, even if the girls had played in their "gym suits." These suits

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1. There were but two fraternities in Miami in the '80's.  
2. Where the house of Western's President now stands.

## CUSTOMS

were bloomers and middie blouses of blue flannel stitched in white. There was a matching skirt, six inches from the floor, so that the suit could be worn for walking.

Another bit of fun was the renting of carriages and horses from Doty's livery barn and driving all the way to College Corner—five miles. Sometimes the girls walked there, a considerable feat.

Whatever the season, there was a midnight feast about once a week. A "box from home" always meant a feast for some special group. Sixty years later a graduate wonders how their stomachs ever survived.

At least once a year the girls gave a play at the College to which only the women of the village were invited. Even with this wholly feminine audience, "the College was too virtuous and modest to allow those who took the part of men to wear trousers." The pseudo men, with their painted-on mustaches, must have looked very grotesque in black skirts topped by men's shirts, coats and vests. The first play in which real trousers appeared, somewhat shocking to the straight-laced Oxonian, was "Esmeralda." The heroine's father, ax in hand, must have been quite a sight in overalls, red flannel shirt, high rubber boots, heavy beard. In later years this shock, produced by a girl portraying a male character, was eliminated by the simple expediency of having a Miami man play the part, an arrangement which, of course, was highly agreeable to all concerned. Rehearsals could not be too long or too frequent.

### *Chaperones*

Chaperones for this, that, and everything were



considered in the early days of the College as a matter of course—just an unquestioned form of good taste in correct society. Chaperones gave prestige to the occasion as Nannie DeWitt's diary bears witness: "In November, 1873, the junior class of O. F. C. gave a feast to which the seniors, and a few other favored guests were invited. Among them were Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Merz, Master Charley Merz, Miss Logue and Miss Wall." The affair was so genial, so bountiful and so full of good will that Miss Wall wrote a long poem commemorating it, ending with:

—All who came from greatest to least  
Ate and enjoyed this junior feast.  
And now in conclusion allow me to say  
That many and many a long, long day  
The junior class will well remember  
This festive scene in chill November  
Of eighteen hundred and seventy-three  
In the back classroom of the O. F. C.

This bit of verse suggests that the elders did not always "sit in awful dignity," but lent themselves to the occasion and played with their charges. Consequently there was no rebellion, at least no open opposition.

However, in each student body there were those who would have dispensed with the omnipresent chaperone any time the trick could be turned, and according to the diary of Miss Nannie De Witt, '75, she found ways to accomplish that frequently. "Lizzie and I have just returned from a ride with Robert Carr and Cy Sample. (Two Miami men.) We went first to a picnic, then to Millville, then to Hamilton, then home." "Mr. Shera and Mr. Fawcett brought Nelle Nichol and me home from uptown in a sleigh tonight." "Mr. Shera came home with me from

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church." "Mr. Caleb Shera came home with me. We came around by the tan yard." (It was not on the regular route to the O. F. C. from town by several blocks!) Nannie was known, and is known today in Oxford, not as a brash, disobedient girl, but just as a lovable one who evidently believed "nothing risked, nothing gained." It was Nannie who bewailed the coming day. "Just think I'll be eighteen years old tomorrow. It is fearful to think of. I tell you good-bye, old book. I am nearly eighteen years old!"

Even when chaperonage was at its height, if the chaperone was popular or not, she was always courteously treated. As this form of propriety became less rigid in the last years of the College, enough of it was retained to give protection and dignity to any occasion.

### *Autumn Events*

On the first Saturday night after the opening of college in September, there was the Big-Little-Sister dinner and dance. Then came the party the old girls gave the new. This was closely followed by the annual College picnic. For several years, sometime during the early weeks, a formal reception was held for the faculty and students to which the "town and gown" were invited. These were well attended as there was not so much social life in the village then as later. "Corridor stunts" claimed a Saturday evening after the College had settled into routine. This was a time when ingenuity and cleverness came to the fore and leadership was manifested.

Soon the well-loved Campus Day arrived. On this

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

day the faculty also entered into the spirit of the occasion. Classes schemed to get their colors flying from the tower, and lustily gave their yells. "Persimmons, persimmons, The College for Wimmens" cried the sophomores in 1916. The morning was athletic heyday, when the best athletes sought the sporting honors of their class. Trees and shrubbery were also planted then. The afternoon was taken up with the wearing of the costumes which had been laboriously planned and made within the stipulated expenditure. Class stunts were presented such as "Fate and a Fan," a delightful musical comedy the setting of which was a Japanese garden. Many were the clever skits written and composed by various students. There was also the competition of original class songs. Cameras, professionally and unprofessionally, clicked all day long to help fill the "memory books."

Usually sometime during the year, the seniors exacted some kind of a toll from the freshman. In 1917 on Campus Day, they gave the freshmen green buttons to be worn until May Day. Campus Day was an occasion of great good cheer, good rivalry, good comradeship, and often excellent wit.

The College never let Hallowe'en pass without a celebration. As far back as 1873, Nannie DeWitt wrote in her diary of the girls petitioning Miss Logue to let them have the evening of October 31 to themselves. The petition was granted, and Nannie wrote: "We had a good time. Had nigger minstrels. Ella is going to sleep with me tonight, and we are to try our fortunes with a bowl of water and see whose initials we get."

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By 1920 the form of celebration had changed somewhat, for the bulletin board announced the following:

Hallowe'en Invitation  
This evening at the stroke of seven  
You are invited one and all  
To come disguised and masquerading  
To our All-Hallows Hall.

Come in couples, youth and maiden,  
Arm in arm, no one will guess  
That your lover is your roommate  
Who has merely changed her dress.

When the fire whistle and other whistles and bells rang out about four A. M., November 11, 1918, and somehow the news came that Germany had signed the Armistice, girls, putting on the first thing that was at hand, flocked into the corridors and sang "The Star Spangled Banner" with enthusiasm born of relaxation from the constant thought of war and loved ones in danger. As soon as breakfast was over the girls stood at attention while the stars and stripes slowly rose to the top of the tower. A holiday was at once declared. The entire student body, armed with horns and whistles, marched to the public square where they sang the National Anthem and were soon joined by the Miami band and by students bearing a French girl on their shoulders. She made a little speech of gratitude, ending with: "Take me to your flag, take me to your flag." There she kissed the folds of the flag that had helped to free her country. Ever after that first Armistice, the day was a half holiday with services in the chapel and the singing of patriotic songs. Changing the dress for dinner was a regular custom, but on Armistice night the household put on



its "Sunday best" to celebrate a historic day.

Thanksgiving day was ever a red-letter day at the College. The morning was taken up with "boxes from home," the arrival of parents, attendance at the union service in the village, and the distribution of baskets the Y had fixed for the poor in Oxford.

A turkey dinner with "all the fixin's" was served at two o'clock. The tables were appropriately decorated and menu cards listing the toasts were at each plate. The girls were dressed in the "traditional white." These dinners often lasted two and three hours, according to the number and length of the toasts and the class songs. Finally a big circle was formed around the room with each person clasping the hand of his or her neighbor, and all joined in singing "America."

On Thanksgiving night there was an entertainment in the chapel. As indicative of the tone of the College and of the times, the entertainment of 1891 is a good example. Living pictures representing the work of celebrated artists were given in tableau form behind a large frame. Before a picture was shown, a sketch of the life of the artist was read with special reference to the picture. While the picture was on exhibit, Professor Hoffman played appropriate music such as "The Blue Bells of Scotland" for Marie Stuart.

In 1892 "Die Puppenfee" was given in which Peter, the factotum, Fred, the elevator boy, Charles, the baker, Robert and Earl Walker, the President's sons, and twenty-five girls took part. This illustrates how the entire College was one family. In later years Shakespearean and other worthwhile plays were giv-

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en on Thanksgiving night to a "standing-room-only" audience. This was before the days of movies in Oxford, automobiles and a bus every two hours.

Beginning in December, 1915, "The Boar's Head Festival" was given in the College chapel every four years shortly before the Christmas vacation. It was a reproduction of the festival celebrated every year at Queens College in Oxford University in England, and was directed by Dr. Eleanor N. Adams, who brought the script from England.

The day the Christmas vacation began, the Y members, dressed in cap and gown, paraded through the corridors, early in the morning, singing Christmas carols.

### *Winter Events*

During the first semester finals, some imp in the director of music prompted him to play in the morning chapel "Work for the Night is Coming." But examination trials were past now and February 22 was the next date marked on the students' calendar. The morning, filled with classes and committee meetings, culminated in a class rally in the chapel where girls dressed in white sang patriotic songs and delivered patriotic addresses. Prizes were awarded by the dean for the best original song and the best address. In the afternoon at four o'clock tea was poured for such distinguished guests as "George Washington," "Thomas Jefferson" and their ladies. In the evening there was always a formal entertainment. On February 22, 1898, Dr. and Mrs. Walker received about four hundred and fifty guests who, when taken to the chapel, found themselves at "The Little Trianon,"

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

the manor place of Marie Antoinette. In after years the dramatic club always gave a good play, hence the night of February 22nd was an outstanding one in the college year.

There was a time when a delightful feature of the winter months was a buffet tea on Sunday evening with the entire college family gathered in the library around the open fire. While tea was being poured, the girls sang familiar hymns. Sometimes Dr. Walker gave interesting and delightful talks, as only he could do, or the Elocution instructor gave a short reading.

For years it was the custom of the College to celebrate Founders' Day, February 27th. In 1926 the day was recognized with a unique and interesting pageant in honor of the ninety-sixth anniversary. A small exhibit of historical character was arranged in one of the rooms on the first floor. In the chapel five episodes of the early history of the College were given. The first illustrated the days of Bethania Crocker, the first preceptress. The second represented the arrival of Dr. Scott and his famous omnibus-load of students and teachers. The third episode was a reproduction of an actual meeting of the Philalethian Society in 1850 in the same auditorium in which this little pageant was given. The subject of the debate on the program given March 8, 1850, was: "Should Ladies be Excluded from Holding Public Offices and Professions?" Not only was the literary department represented, but also the music department, with several solos of long-since-forgotten music. Verse after verse of the once-popular love song, "The Snow White Rose," was plaintively and sweetly sung. No

## CUSTOMS

rendition of the early history of the College would be complete without the fourth episode—one of the famous “walks to church under the chaperonage of Dr. Scott,” who sedulously kept Miami students from joining his young ladies on the way to worship. The quaint old costumes and the gay flower-trimmed bonnets, together with Dr. Scott’s gold-headed cane, made this episode picturesque. The last episode represented the unveiling of the White House portrait of Caroline Scott Harrison. This “unveiling” was perfect. So absolutely still did Mrs. Harrison’s impersonator stand in a gorgeous wine-colored velvet gown that the audience felt it was a real portrait.

### *Spring in Oxford*

In the late '80's and early '90's in April there was the annual senior tree planting with merry ceremonies in which the President, Dean and Faculty sponsors took part. This custom probably accounts for the many varieties of trees found on the College yard.

The class of 1895 seemed marked for the unusual. The class day program was “As You Like It” in “the Forest of Arden on the banks of the Tallawanda.” Then for the first time, orations and essays by the graduates were omitted at the Commencement exercises—to the relief of the audience, as the program was long enough on a warm June day.

In 1898 and 1899 the Spanish American War aroused national enthusiasm, so much that on April 29, 1899, a war concert by the students of O. C. and Miami University, assisted by Mrs. Emma Ostrander Whitney, was given under the direction of



## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Miss Laura Miller, professor of voice culture, and Miss Bertha Provine, professor of history in the College. This joint concert again illustrates the cooperation and feeling of good will that always existed between the College and Miami University.

To bring the students into closer social contact there were informal teas which were in charge of a different class and its sponsor each week in the spring. An annual spring dance was given in the sun parlor, and tea dances were given each month when there was not a class dance.

For years May first was recognized at O. C. as a time when class rivalry was at its height, when seniors and sophomores vied with juniors and freshmen in evidence of class loyalty. By 1911 each class, with its faculty sponsor, made plans secretly and stole away at unheard-of hours. Each attempted something smarter than the others. The day after they related great tales of their adventures. It was harmless fun, but none the less spirited. It was the custom on May Day for the juniors to give the seniors a gift suitable for their parlor. The gift was a secret until it was stealthily put in the senior parlor. It was on May Day at 5:30 A. M. that each junior was awakened by a little tap on her door where she found a corsage of violets, sometimes with rose buds tucked in, a compliment from the freshmen. By six o'clock the town people were aroused by strains of lovely old songs coming from the tower where the choir had gathered to welcome the spring. After the singing on the tower, the Y served a special breakfast in the sun parlor made festive with flowers, and where "simple

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white" was the proper thing for everyone to wear.

By May, 1912, the May Day festivities had taken on a different aspect. Although the seniors were still conspicuous by their absence, a pageant was given. The juniors appeared in the period of the College between 1830 and 1860; the sophomores represented 1860 to 1885, when public examinations were the terror of the students and when Butler's "Analogy of Religion" was the text; the freshmen gave the "Evolution of the O. C. Promenade," 1885 to 1905; the preparatory students were the prophets of the future when students from all over the known world would be enrolled in O. C. One scene showed a Japanese<sup>1</sup> girl registering and demurring when asked to pledge she would not organize or join a secret society. When she understood the purpose of the pledge she said, "Ah, yes, Rooshia, Rooshia!"

This simple and unassuming pageant led to more elaborate productions to celebrate the May. By 1915 the whole festivity was taken out of doors and was called the May Fete. This year "Old Pipes and the Dryad" was given to entertain the May Queen, a senior elected by the student body. This May Fete did not necessarily fall on May Day. The timing was largely a matter of weather. In 1921 the pageant before the Queen represented the growth of Oxford from Indian days to the "Grown Town and Its Interests." Another year a health masque was given and another, a spring fantasy. Someone has well said: "It is the natural affinity between that season and

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1. A true incident when Nobu Furuya registered in November, 1911. To her, Russia, even then, was a synonym for intrigue.

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

youth that makes the older woman hark back to her college days on a May morning when she hied forth to gather the anemonies, the violets and spring beauties."

### *Intellectual and Cultural Forms of Recreation*

The following illustrates some of the opportunities to hear in Oxford the best of lectures and the finest of music.

Lectures were mostly on religious themes until 1887, when they began gently to take on a different trend. In May the Reverend G. L. McNutt, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian church in Indianapolis, lectured on "Marrying a Preacher" and General S. F. Cary lectured on "Temperance." The College was always indebted to the many outstanding professors on the Miami campus who gave generously of themselves and their time, always responding to invitations to speak to the O. C. girls.

Among other lecturers heard in the College there were: the noted Dr. Millard of England who spoke on "Sir Thomas Moore and His Famous Utopia"; Dr. Ernst Jackh, founder and president of the Deutsche Hochschule fur Politik in Berlin, on "The New Germany"; James E. Murdock, famous tragedian and Shakespearean interpreter, whom Lincoln asked in 1861 to abandon the stage and devote himself to patriotic readings and addresses throughout the country to raise money for military hospitals; Dr. Osborn of map fame, who lectured on "The Authenticity of the Bible"; Jacob Riis; President Thwing of Western Reserve University; Bertrand Russell; William McFee, English novelist and essayist; Baron Sergius A. Korff,

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Russian nobleman, who had been a professor of constitutional law in the University of Petrograd and the Women's College of Helsingfors, Finland, and professor of political sciences in the School of Foreign Service in George Washington University; Hamilton Holt, owner and consulting editor of the *Independent*; Arthur Hamilton Gibbs, English author and lecturer; Carveth Wells, English lecturer and civil engineer; Professor Ralph Dennis, dean of the Cummock School of Oratory in Northwestern University, who read "Joseph and His Brethren"; Dr. Charles Fleischer, a publicist and editor of *Democracy*, the former leader of the Boston Sunday Commons; Dr. Frank Bohn, special feature writer of *The New York Times*; John Van Druten, English playwright and lecturer whose subject was "Contemporary Dramatists"; William W. Ellsworth, former president of the Century Company who lectured on "Shakespeare and Old London"; Dr. Lauro De Bosis on "Popular Art and Life in Italy"; David Seabury, noted psychologist of New York, who gave a Commencement address; Dr. Bruno Roselli, head of the Italian department at Vassar, a Commencement address; Professor Kurt Koffka, one of the founders of the new Gestalt psychology; V. L. Granville, distinguished English actor. The fine lectures and musical programs at Miami and Western College were also open to the Oxford College students.

Of noted musicians heard in the O. C. chapel there were: Madame Rive-King, pianist; the Philharmonic String Quartette of Cincinnati; the Schubert Male Quartette of Chicago; Mr. Edgar Stillman Kelly, a



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foremost American composer; Madame Marguerite Melville Liszniewska, one of the great pianists; Miss Rae Bernstein, a Russian pianist; and Cecil Burleigh, one of America's most distinguished violinists and composers. The proximity of Hamilton and Cincinnati afforded many other opportunities to hear the best of music, as when Jascha Heifetz gave a violin recital in Cincinnati and the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra gave a concert.

Not a cultural but an interesting event was the visit of Chief Two-Gun White Calf, whose likeness appears on every buffalo nickel in the United States, and a group of his tribe of Blackfeet Indians enroute from Baltimore to their reservation east of Glacier National Park. They visited the College one Sunday morning in the spring of 1927. On the west lawn the Chief gave a speech in his native tongue, which, interpreted, proved to be an expression of pleasure in being on the campus, his first visit to a woman's college campus. After the speech there was a brief demonstration of native customs, and the initiation of Mrs. Sallie C. Harding into the tribe, the name of "Princess A-paki," ermine woman, being conferred upon her. It had been through Mrs. Harding's efforts that the Indians visited the College.

Since the Chief permitted only a few of his tribe to come to the College, the huge supply of sandwiches and coffee had to be transferred to the train. The Indians travelled by one of the first trains used in this country. The locomotive, one of the earliest type, was a wood burner. The whole train, as well as the Indians, was of interest. Many in Oxford, who had

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never seen a real Indian, missed the morning church service much to the distress of the pastors in the village, whose congregations were noticeably small that morning.

### *Commencement*

The Commencement exercises, like other affairs, changed with the times. No longer did a graduate hold forth in a Latin Salutatory, nor did one orate in Greek, as had Bertha Provine and Maude Chalfant respectively in 1891. Instead, a speaker of note was secured to deliver the Commencement address. These exercises and the baccalaureate were no longer held in a village church but in the College chapel, a more fitting setting.

Shortly before Commencement, the seniors presented the College with a gift. In 1905 the class gave a true-to-life picture of Dr. Fannie Ruth Robinson. In 1919 the gift was a picture of Dr. Sherzer—a mellow sepia in a wide plain walnut frame. This picture, an enlarged copy of one taken ten or fifteen years before, was a very good likeness of her in her prime. In the latter part of the '20's, a graduating class presented to the College an excellent picture of Dr. Eleanor N. Adams. These pictures hang today in the College chapel. The last graduating class gave new indirect lighting fixtures for the chapel.

The seniors always made the money for these gifts by selling food after study hours in the evening. When something was needed, or desired, for which there was no money, the students used ingenuity, sacrificed, worked, and earned the money. Even the faculty did its share. When a new curtain for the

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stage was needed in 1925, it was the faculty that staged a show—"Destiny Undestined"—a satire on the faculty written by Miss Helen Wolcott of the English department, each member playing herself or himself. The students rocked with laughter and relief, for they had expected the ridicule to be at their expense.

### RULES

The size of the College undoubtedly accounted for some of the regulations and procedures, for the personal, rather than the impersonal, manner of dealing with offenses.

During the regime of Dr. Scott, and the early part of Dr. Morris' incumbency, "young ladies" were publicly reprimanded and required to confess before the student body at chapel time for such "reprehensible and improper" offenses as corresponding with Miami students, talking to them on the street, passing notes, taking clandestine buggy rides, or having other engagements with them, and for any disrespect shown a member of the faculty. Calling offenders before the faculty was customary. Sometimes the sentence was suspension, but usually this was remitted through one or another influence. Usually the punishment that followed the public reprimand was restriction in various degrees and a lowered department grade. At each faculty meeting in the '60's there was the roll call of the students. As each name was called, the teachers separately reported concerning the character of the "young lady," morally, mentally, socially and religiously.

## RULES

Even though perfect conduct was required and a deep religious belief desired, morning prayer meetings among the students and the Sabbath evening prom-enading were dispensed with in September, 1860.

Since the student body was small and all lived intimately under one roof, it is significant that the faculty as early as May 11, 1860, was plagued with the question as to whether or not any benefit would accrue to the O. F. C. from the secret societies *sub rosa* in the College. By June no decision had been reached. However, there must have been an inherent objection to these secret organizations, for until the day the College closed they were not approved by the faculty. The democratic spirit was to prevail, and it could not flourish with cliques under the same roof.

From 1877 to 1879 the "young ladies" were required to line up in the hall for inspection by the teacher whose turn it was to lead them uptown and safely home. Going to town was an event. They had to pass Miami enroute to town and back, so they must be properly dressed and groomed. While rouge, powder and lipstick were, of course, taboo, it was the vogue then to wear a small patch of black court plaster at the most fetching and provocative spot on the face. The inspection regulation naturally became modified, but down through the years a student's evening gown had to have the approval of the dean.

Until 1905, when they were permitted to go to church in groups, it was customary for the students to proceed in a body under the alert supervision of a faculty member.

Decorous as these maidens were supposed to be,



there was always some lively one who gave the faculty more "headaches" than all the rest put together. Such a one was the notoriously mischievous Grace Knight, who, on a certain Sunday, found she could make a buzzing sound by kicking a sliver on the bottom of the pew in front of her. She was sitting three seats behind Miss Wall, the faculty member, "who sat in all her dignity" at the end of the first pew of the "Amen Corner." At intervals, and even through the long prayer, this buzzing could be heard by the entire congregation. To make matters worse, Grace circulated among the girls a note saying, "It's Miss Wall panting," which of course, "set off a smothered giggle." The buzzing stopped only when the annoyed minister said, "Stop that noise. It is interrupting the service. The perpetrator should be severely punished." That evening in chapel, with Grace "on the carpet," Dr. Morris read to her, "Keep thy foot when thou goest into the Lord—." Furious as the faculty members were, they were fair enough to realize the difference between a prank and some serious offense meriting expulsion. So letters of apology and the loss of senior privileges permitted the offender to graduate in 1882. In view of the freedom of choice today as to how one may spend Sunday, the following rule enforced in the '80's, and even later, seems pretty stiff: "Stillness must pervade the house during the hours of the Sabbath. No visiting rooms, or recreation unsuitable to the day will be permitted."

In the '80's girls might make calls in town the first Saturday of each month. They could shop only on Saturday afternoons. They could receive calls from

## RULES

young men once a month, and then only with the permission of their parents. Then there was the absurd rule which never could be enforced entirely: "No pupil shall be permitted to correspond with anyone whose name does not appear in the list of names furnished the College by the parents or guardians." To offset this rigid, not to say unreasonable, regulation, each girl had her heavy string that could hoist the forbidden note, sweets or flowers from the gallant beneath her window under cover of night.

The great and cautious care thrown about the students explains why fathers sent their motherless children to the protection of the College even when they were not of college age, for there was the preparatory department until the early 1900's.

"It was a typical boarding school," said a graduate of the '80's. "We did everything we had read of in stories. There were the midnight feasts; games of casino by the hour, the only card game we knew, when we yawned our heads off, and the transom was covered with a blanket, and the keyhole was stuffed with chewing gum. If we were sure we were disobeying the rules, we knew we were having a grand time. But our naughtiness was of a very harmless variety. For it really was very much the thing, very stylish to have our lessons well prepared. Most girls studied hard and our standards were high."

With the changes that society in general demanded, especially after World War I, the rules became less rigid and more reasonable. The social life of the College became more normal. However, it was with some surprise that suddenly, and without much argument,

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a time worn "verboden" was done away with, and by the Y. W. C. A. of all organizations! In late October, 1927, the Y gave a bridge party in the Sun Parlor! For ninety-seven years card playing had been strictly forbidden in O. C. It was considered wicked, at least by "the powers." Even when this "wicked" idea was waning card playing still was not to be done in the sacrosanct confines of O. C. This rule, like the "no-dancing in the College" finally submitted to the pressure of the times.



## VI. WHY OXFORD COLLEGE LIVED NINETY-EIGHT YEARS

ONE reason for the long life of the College is to be found in the type of the founders, the friends, the presidents and the faculty down to the day of the closing. Their lofty aim—to develop the spiritual as well as the intellectual character of young women—permeated the years. They sought and established a spirit in the College that was indestructible—a spirit of good comradeship, of fine scholarship, of evaluating the intrinsic worth of a fellow being, of helpfulness for those less fortunate, of loyalty to high ideals, and of the appreciation of the finer things in life. “Who that has ever lived for a long or short space of time within the friendly shelter of the old brick walls can deny the existence of that spirit? Who did not sense that O. C. traditions whispered through the halls, their happy ghosts lingering near the tower?”<sup>1</sup>

Evidence of the fostering of this spirit is found in voluntary statements of O. C. girls, such as the fol-

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1. Letter from Katherine Hughey, Ex-'30, to the author in 1947.



lowing excerpts from letters over the years:

"... that spirit which flowered for us in those years of youth and happiness and carefree joy, tinged with a recognition of duty and learning."

"My four years at Oxford have been, and always will be, an unfailing source of inspiration to looking for the best in life and finding it in service."

"Perhaps O. C. was distinctive because of the simplicity of our surroundings and equipment, which taught us to value things of the spirit, more than we did externals. Of necessity we created much of our own fun instead of depending largely upon outside amusements. Our small numbers gave opportunity for close association with the faculty. I doubt that students in a large university can ever know or understand their professors as we did ours at O. C. All this made for a breadth of experience and a chance for development of personality quite unique. It left its stamp on the Oxford women."

"I had no realization of the quality of the teaching at O. C. until I did graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School. After two years there I knew my undergraduate work at Oxford had been of a very high order indeed. One reason was the small classes. But nothing was so important as the calibre of the faculty."

"There was the friendly helpful spirit among the girls and the faculty. All were interested in one another. I felt the same sense of security there that I felt at home. I knew I was among friends who expected the best I could give them in scholarship and achievement."

"The deep and binding ties that we formed there really transcend time and space. I wonder what untold value we got from daily and intimate contact with the mature minds of our faculty."

"I feel I owe my success—what there has been—in life to my training and the atmosphere that prevailed throughout the phases of daily living. I appreciate the culture and refinement of environment and personnel. I appreciate the little niceties that were so wisely and tactfully urged upon students. I appreciate the regard for tradition that was always taught directly and indirectly. The love of the rich heritage of the past was instilled in me. I cherish the memories of the solemn dignity of our vesper and chapel services. None of us can ever measure the solidarity of the purpose and satisfaction of mind and soul that we absorbed."

"The thing that has meant the most to me was the association with the faculty and students. After twenty-four years, it still seems more warm and vital than any other anywhere. Another was the democratic spirit that never failed. I shall be eternally grateful that I attended a college that weighed me for myself; that gave a set of values for judging people and setting standards; that was as much interested in educating girls' hearts as their minds."

While mundane affairs could, and did, destroy the material phase of the College, this spirit, and its teachings, still exist in the hearts of the O. C. women.

It was the heritage of this spirit that led an after-dinner speaker to fill a memory basket at the time of the Centennial with, among other things, a little white

## THE HISTORY OF OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

dress to represent "simple white," an Easter lily to commemorate the Y's Easter service, a bunch of violets in memory of May Day, a hymnal to suggest the vesper service, and a bottle of tears for the closing of the college—tears that were at first opaque and then became iridescent as the hope and realization increased that the College was not to drop into oblivion.

It was this same spirit that prompted another Centennial guest, Ruth Preston, '21, to salute her college with:

Again we have found you,  
Oxford, our mother,  
Forever tender, forever wise  
Beyond all worldliness  
Above all splendor  
The love of the old, and the new in your eyes.

Lo, we salute you,  
Oxford, our mother,  
Gathered once more in your sheltering walls  
With the low voice of dreams—  
And the lilt of light laughter;  
The life of the old and the new in your halls.

Love us, and keep us,  
Dear Alma Mater,  
Guard us and guide us, as now we part,  
Forever hopeful, loyal, and courageous,  
As we remember thy mother heart.

## APPENDIX

### *An Act*

To incorporate the Oxford Female Academy

*Section 1.* Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio that John W. Scott, William Graham, James R. Hughes, William W. Robertson, Herman B. Mayo, George G. White, and James Leech, with such others as may be associated with them for the purpose of establishing and sustaining a seminary for the education of females in the town of Oxford, in the county of Butler, and their successors, be and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate, with succession, for the term of thirty years, by the name of The Oxford Female Academy, and by that name shall be competent to contract, and be contracted with; sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all courts of law and equity; and may have a common seal, and may break or alter the same at pleasure; and may acquire, hold and enjoy, sell, convey and dispose of property both real and personal: Provided, The capital stock of said institution shall not exceed ten thousand dollars.

*Section 2.* That the corporate concerns of said Academy shall be managed by a board of trustees, consisting of seven members, who shall be stockholders, and four of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; they shall be elected by the stockholders annually; and shall hold their offices until their successors are elected; they shall elect one of their number president of the board, and shall have power to fill all vacancies that may happen in their own body by appointment. They shall have power to make, ordain and carry into effect such by-laws and regulations as they shall deem proper for the good government of the Academy, and for the management of the property and affairs, for the division of the capital stock into shares, and the mode of transfer of said shares, for appointing officers and teachers and defining their powers and duties, for prescribing time and manner of holding election for trustees, and for such other pur-



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poses as may be necessary for effectivating the object of the corporation: Provided, That in prescribing the time and manner of electing trustees, each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote for every share by him owned; And provided also, That if no election may be made on any other day, by giving at least ten days notice thereof by publication in some newspaper of said town of Oxford, or by writing posted up at three public places in town.

*Section 3.* The above named persons shall constitute the board of trustees until others are elected, who together with all others who may be elected trustees under this act, shall before entering upon the discharge of the duties of their respective offices, take an oath or affirmation before some person duly authorized to administer oaths, faithfully and impartially to discharge the duties thereof.

*Section 4.* Any future legislature may alter, amend, or repeal this act: Provided, Such alteration, amendment, or repeal shall in no wise affect the title to property acquired or conveyed under its provisions.

James J. Faran  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*  
William Hawkins  
*Speaker of the Senate*

February 27, 1839

### *An Act*

To incorporate the Oxford Female Institute at the town of Oxford, in the county of Butler.

*Section 1.* Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, that Herman B. Mayo, Alfred Luce, Robert H. Bishop Jr., Peter D. Matson, Samuel R. Mollyneaux, Peter Sutton, William H. Smith, William A. Irwin, Francis H. Peyton, and their associates and successors, be and they are hereby declared a body corporate with perpetual succession, by the name of "THE OXFORD FEMALE INSTITUTE," and by that name shall have power to sue and be sued, con-

## APPENDIX

tract and be contracted with, plead and be impleaded, in all courts and elsewhere; to make and have common seal, and the same to alter and renew at pleasure; to acquire and hold such real or leasehold estate, not exceeding in value twenty thousand dollars, as may be used for said institute and buildings for the same; and, in addition, such personal property as books, apparatus, and furniture as may be required for the use of said institute; and to sell, dispose of, and convey the same at pleasure: Provided, that the funds and other property of the institution shall not be applied to any use, or any purpose not herein expressed or intended.

*Section 2.* That the capital stock of said company shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, divided into shares of twenty dollars, transferable on the books of the company only.

*Section 3.* That the affairs of said company shall be managed by a board of trustees, consisting of nine members, to be chosen by the stockholders in person; first election to be holden on the first Monday in March ensuing, (1849), at the office of the President of said town of Oxford; and thereafter the election shall be holden on the first Monday of March in every year, at such place as the president of said board may direct; that in all elections and other proceedings of the company each shareholder shall be entitled to one vote, each holder of three shares to two votes, and each holder of five shares or over to three votes.

*Section 4.* That of the trustees chosen at the first election three shall serve for the term of one year, three for two years, and the remaining three for three years; the adjustment of their respective terms of service to be made by lot by the trustees themselves at their first meeting; and annually, after said three years and until their successors be elected and qualified; and if any vacancies occur, by death or otherwise, the board shall have power to fill the same by appointment.

*Section 5.* That the trustees shall annually appoint one of their number to be president of the board; and shall appoint from among the stockholders, not excluding themselves, a secretary and treasurer, and any other

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officer they may deem useful; that at all meetings of the board five shall constitute a quorum for business; that the board shall have power to purchase, or otherwise procure, a site for the erection of a suitable building or buildings for the said institute; it being understood that the selection of the same shall be left to the decision of the stockholders; the trustees shall superintend the erection and repair of said building or buildings, or the procurement and repair of one already built; they shall procure apparatus and furniture proper for such institution for the education of females; they shall employ a teacher or teachers, assistants and all other officers necessary for conducting the same, and they shall regulate the admission of students; they shall make all contracts on behalf of the institute, but such contracts to be valid, shall be signed by the president and countersigned by the secretary; they shall from time to time make and enforce such rules, regulations, and laws, not inconsistent with the laws of the land; and shall take all such proper measures as shall be for the support, the good government and well-being of the institution.

John G. Breslin  
*Speaker of House of Representatives*  
Brewster Randall  
*Speaker of the Senate*

February 23, 1849

## *Resolutions on the Death of President Lincoln*

Resolved First: That we have heard of the foul assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, with astonishment and heart-felt sorrow, and that we deeply and sincerely mourn his death.

Resolved Second: That his personal qualities as a man, and his inflexible maintenance of the Union and Constitution in this great rebellion have endeared his name and his character to every lover of liberty and human happiness.

Resolved Third: That his fiendish murder deserves the universal abhorrence of mankind, and though we have hitherto been tolerant of many disloyal sentiments, we can no longer countenance sympathy with rebels and assassins, from which this diabolic attempt upon his life and majesty of the nation has sprung.

Resolved Fourth: That in common with the American people, we bow to this Providence of God, and humbly commit to Him the destinies of our nation.

Resolved Fifth: That as a mark of our sorrow for our President that we wear the usual badge and drape our halls in mourning.

Resolved Sixth: That our President be requested to hand these proceedings to the editor of the Oxford Citizen for publication.

Mollie D. Banes  
Adelaide Kilgore  
Louise A. Maltby  
Mary A. Morris  
Mary K. Peck

Committee



